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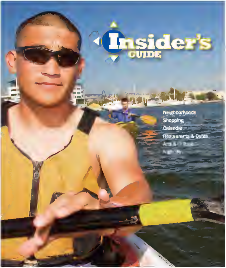

MOVIES 33

CINEMA INFERNO

Inglourious Basterds gives itself a hot foot while *Flame & Citron* artfully smolders.

By Kelly Vance

Quentin Tarantino has a brand-new toy: World War II. The young boy wonder never lacks playthings. Something always pops up in his shooting-gallery mind, and bang! he bags it, either just for fun or for future use. But that's another story. This particular yarn, *Inglourious Basterds*, is the one about Nazis and Jews and American GIs locked in mortal combat in Europe in the 1940s, the "biggest news story of the 20th century," as Tarantino envisions it. It's what we might call a unique vision. *Story inside*

MUSIC 39

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CONTENTS

NEWS&OPINION

4 **Letters**
5 **Raising the Bar** An East Bay trail of tears
7 **Seven Days** BART brass bangs tough.
8 **Eco Watch** EBMUD board uses lots of H2O
10 **Full Disclosure** Dellums gets his mojo back.
11 **News** The Secret Sidewalk may not be secret much longer

ARTS&CULTURE

16 **Culture Spy** Youth Voices conference
18 **Event & Attraction Listings** Art Quest 2
20 **Museum & Gallery Listings** *Insights of Life from the Shadows of Death* at Red Door Gallery.
22 **Theater & Dance Listings**
24 **Theater Review** *Happy Days* at Cal Shakes.
25 **Lectures & Literary Listings** Kevin Madal at the Fremont Main Library.
26 **Body & Soul Listings** Belly Dance Day
27 **Aquarium Age**

FOOD&DRINK

28 **Restaurants & Cafes**
30 **Winenow** Cheap wine and pregnancy
32 **Food & Wine Listings**

MOVIES

33 **Movie Review** *Inglourious Basterds* and *Flame & Citron*
33 **Movie Listings**
37 **One-Night Stands**

MUSIC

39 **Brass, Bows and Beats** At SF Yoshi's
40 **Combat Music Radio**
42 **CD Reviews** The Antlers, Beep! and Locks
42 **Local Licks** Tartuff, Steve Taylor, the New Up, and pc muñoz
43 **Concerts & Club Listings**
47 **DJ & Dance Listings**

EXTRAS

48 **Savage Love**

On the Cover *Kayaker in the Oakland Estuary. Photo by Sonya Rovell.*

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A smart look at today's local news

NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

[illegible]

We Like the Parkway

Thanks for rolling up your sleeves and making some sense of the chaos that was so widely felt during these closures. The lack of clarity in the case of both theaters pointed towards complex causes, but without journalism, who would deliver the facts? In the first week after the Parkway's closing, about 5,000 people joined the Facebook group Save the Parkway Speakeasy Theater in Oakland (now ilikethe parkway.com) looking for answers. Our cause has been to rally support for the past tenant and our hope is to facilitate the Parkway's reopening. Please join our mailing list at ilikethe parkway.com

Darren Hauck, Oakland

The Grass Isn't Always Greener

My name is Joe Hawkins, co-producer of the Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival that once called the Parkway Theater home. I am writing to thank you for shedding more light on this subject. I must also thank Kyle and Catherine for providing my co-producer Debra Wilson and I with the opportunity to give creative birth to the nation's largest Black LGBT Film Festival. This would have been our seventh year at the Parkway.

It seems clear that Oakland entrepreneurial creativity and effort revived the Cerrito while the Oakland Parkway business suffered. Oakland business owners cannot take their eyes off of the ball and give to others what we need to keep for ourselves. Because we all know that the grass is not always greener outside of Oakland.

Joe Hawkins, Oakland

The Loss of Community

I appreciate the details here — I was hoping the *Express* would follow up on what happened. I was a Parkway patron since 1997 and there is sadness on the last day. I don't know the Fischers personally, and my sense about them was that they ran the business with a lot of inventiveness, personality, and dedication to serving the community that patronized the theatres. I don't think profit was the top of their agenda, and that seems borne out by their willingness to keep going in faith even when it cost them a lot. It's sad to me that they weren't helped more on the business end by the city after they helped develop something that goes beyond profit — neighborhood and community. Both Oakland and El Cerrito lost a lot by the closures — the theatres were for me and I suspect so many, way beyond a place to see a movie and eat pizza.

Irene Nexica, Oakland

We Need a *&%#* Life

Oakland really, really needs the Parkway — for two reasons. We need an alternative film house, and we need that funky 18th and Park neighborhood to get a "&%#" life! I'm tired of getting depressed when I walk through there. It would also be great if the huge, dismal parking lots at Kragen, Walgreen's, and Lucky's were replaced with some inviting retail stores.

Denny Smith, Oakland

[illegible] Culture Spy

The Elephant in the Room

I find it disheartening that a supposedly aware newspaper like the *Express* would make room for a fawning profile of a Ringling Brothers ringmaster without asking him about the "elephant in the room" — the issue of the Ringling Brothers circus abusing its elephants. A 2009 investigation by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals found that all of their animals are regularly beaten and whipped. I am the mother of a 4-year-old boy, and every aware parent I know refuses to take their kids to the circus because it conveys the message that these elegant, intelligent animals were put on earth merely for our entertainment.

Lisa Tomasy, Oakland

Pain for Pleasure

Dr. Albert Schweitzer taught: "We need a boundless ethics which will include the animals also." Schweitzer opposed the use of animals in entertainment. "I never go to a menagerie," he once wrote, "because I cannot endure the sight of the misery of the captive animals. The exhibiting of trained animals I abhor. What an amount of suffering and cruel punishment the poor creatures have to endure to give a few minutes of pleasure to men devoid of all thought and feeling for them."

Vasu Murti, Oakland

A Living Nightmare

Life on the road with the Ringling Bros. Circus might be challenging for the performer you profiled, but unlike the elephants, tigers, horses, and other animals used by the circus, at least he isn't locked in a cage or shackled in chains. He can get up and walk away anytime. The animals cannot.

It's odd that your piece didn't mention a word about the recent video footage of Ringling trainers beating elephants with bullhooks — a rod with a sharp metal hook on the end — and whipping tigers. PETA's undercover investigation documented Ringling elephant handlers hitting elephants over and over, and Ringling owner Kenneth Feld recently admitted under oath during testimony to answer charges that the circus' elephant handling practices violate the federal Endangered Species Act that elephants are routinely hit with bullhooks.

Life on the road may be a dream for circus employees, but for the animals used by Ringling, it's a living nightmare. If you care about animals, watch the footage for yourself at www.RinglingBeatsAnimals.com before buying a ticket.

Kristie Phelps, Assistant Director, Animals in Entertainment Campaign and Outreach Programs People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Oakland

[illegible]

There's Plenty of Development

Has Robert Gammon ever visited Berkeley? I'm confused because he concludes with the assertion that developers shun downtown Berkeley. Perhaps he rode through on BART once? If he'd like to come up from the station, I'd be pleased to show him plenty of major development within 5 blocks of BART:

the 2001 Gaia at 2120 Allston;
the 2002 Artech at 2000 Addison;
the 2002 Allston Place (Oak Court/Pioneer) at 2161 Allston;
the 2004 Fine Arts at 2461 Shattuck;
the 2004 Tourel Building at 2004 University;
the 2005 University Neighborhood Apartments at 1721 University;
the 2006 Stadium Place at 2310 Fulton;
the 2006 Library Gardens at 2020 Kittredge;
the 2007 Hillside Village at 1797/1801 Shattuck;
the 2008 Berkeley City College at 2050 Center;
the 2009 Oxford Plaza at 2175 Kittredge;
and the 2009 Bancroft Hotel renovation.

If he prefers current construction, I can offer:
the Arpeggio on Center at Shattuck;
the Trader Joe's on MLK at University;
the Fidelity at 2323 Shattuck;
and the Freight and Salvage at 2020 Addison.

The real-estate broker Gordon Commercial says of downtown, "Since 2000, over 3000 new residential units are newly built, under construction, or in the permit process." (It's right there on their web site.)

That leaves me with the question of why I should believe anything Mr. Gammon has to say. Mr. Gammon?

P.S. What about development in Hayward or San Leandro? Are they NIMBYs too?

John Vinopal, Berkeley

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

RAISING THE BAR

AN EAST BAY TRAIL OF TEARS

It's been a sad summer for workers in the East Bay and elsewhere in Northern California. Why are their unions fighting among themselves?

By Jay Youngdahl

It has been a sad summer for working people in the East Bay. The communities served by the BART line are a veritable Trail of Tears. The economic downturn is pressing on workers especially hard. Alone they often lack the resources to respond, yet their unions are locked in internal battles that are rendering them increasingly ineffectual.

The first stop on our journey is Fremont. Some of the East Bay's best remaining living-wage jobs could soon disappear with the threatened closure of the New United Motor Manufacturing auto plant. The multiplier effect of factories such as NUMMI has an extraordinary economic impact on the lives of many people in their communities. And in an area in which racial issues remain front and center, it should not be forgotten that it was plants like this one that allowed many African Americans and other minority group members to first attain middle-class lives. These jobs also provided their employees with adequate health care into retirement, a precious commodity for anyone today.

Meanwhile, following the BART line north, some of the East Bay Area working folks who still have good wages and pensions have been roundly ridiculed for their audacity in fighting to protect them. The BART workers' contract struggle is a focus of derision for those who claim that it is ridiculous that those who operate the trains would make more than the people who ride them to get to their "important" jobs.

As a result of such tools and the devastation they have wrought, this summer many people throughout the East Bay have lost their homes and their tenuous grip on the American Dream. Those who can no longer afford to make their mortgage payments are the greatest victims. But as the sale of distressed properties continues to climb, the glut of foreclosed properties is driving down prices so much that many people who still can afford their payments are also deeply underwater on their mortgages.

The pain this crisis has inflicted on the state budget is just beginning to affect the East Bay. The final budget is sure to be painful for working-class caregivers and care recipients in East Bay communities. California has long had one of the country's best home-health-care systems. While caregivers often make little more than the minimum wage, at least they have stable jobs about which they can feel justifiably proud.

And the new state budget will hit working people in other ways. In spite of Proposition 98, which theoretically guarantees a certain level of funding to community colleges, the new budget is certain to restrict access for future students. With industrial jobs evaporating, community college is one of the only roads to success for kids who have spent time in California's K-12 educational system. For those without financial resources or mommy and daddy's networks of connections, the community college system is a way to gain the skills and entry into higher education that can allow one to succeed in the difficult marketplace of work. Heretofore, this avenue to success has provided an impressive amount of support for its students, but it is becoming heavily potholed.

Traveling north to Oakland, we reach the epicenter of misplaced union energy. Since bitter internal fights have a way of sapping the creative juices of their leaders, the leadership that unions should provide suffering East Bay workers is sorely lacking. Creative and passionate women and men work for local unions, yet they often seem more focused on fighting each other than on fighting for their members.

At the Aramark laundry in Oakland, some of the poorest industrial workers in our county are fighting a battle for a decent contract with their employer. Unfortunately for these industrial laundry workers, their union has split in two, and each side is fighting for control, leaving the workers themselves swimming in a sea of confusion. The garment workers of Workers United and the UNITE-HERE hotel workers with whom they recently merged are locked in a *Lucha Libre* death match, in which workers are just pawns in battles among union leaders. Good contracts are difficult to secure for industrial workers in the best of times, but when union battles dominate the scene, employers have little reason to agree to a fair contract.

The same divisive atmosphere permeates the caring professions of health care. Even as *Kaiser Permanente* announces new layoffs, the three-ring circus between the Service Employees International Union, the California Nurses Association, and the former service workers in the National Union of Health Care Workers continues. The latter union, which has maintained a positive and wholesome image among many national labor activists, recently received a stinging rebuke from a local federal judge, putting its progressive and democratic reputation in question.

For those who labor in the East Bay, this summer has produced too many external pressures and not enough organized response

Given the current political climate, the difficulties that workers face from budget cuts are not surprising. But battles among unions are especially sad. Their skirmishes sap the ability of workers to respond to hardships. All the unions involved in these battles espouse a love for workers and the importance of focusing on them, but it is hard to find evidence of these sentiments in what look like ego-driven battle royales. All are tremendous strategists and tacticians. But while they claim to put the interests of workers first, each is spending huge sums of workers' money on lawyers and public relations specialists of all stripes.

Unions serve their members when they exhibit a spirit of unity, solidarity and self-sacrifice. It is time for these union leaders to step back and think about their duties to workers. Like the Native Americans on the original Trail of Tears, the anguish of those who face difficult conditions is often unheard in our present culture. For those who live in the East Bay and labor with their hands and minds, this summer has produced too many external pressures and not enough organized response. ●

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LAUNDRY WORKERS RALLY AMID DISCORD

At Oakland's Aramark plant, workers dues have been sucked into a dispute between unions.

On a Tuesday afternoon in Oakland it was even hotter outside the Chestnut Street Aramark industrial laundry than it was in the plant. Amid the din of passing trucks and BART trains, 150 orange-T-shirt-clad laundry workers and supporters of their union, Workers United, protested the lack of a contract with Aramark. Massing on a parking lot, the multiracial crowd heard from the actor Danny Glover and national union president Edgar Romney. As each speech was translated into English, Spanish, and Cantonese, the mainly Asian and Hispanic crowd yelled "Contract now!" Glover called her rally a "community of love" that can be found in any struggle in which people are fighting for wages and benefits that allow the raising of a healthy and productive family. After an hour of speeches and chanting, the crowd entered the offices of management and demanded that Aramark sign a contract. But soon they exited unsuccessfully chanting "We will be back."

Rallies for better wages and working conditions are normal and healthy events in our community. But more was happening here. What was unusual about this event was the presence of ten or so red-clad workers and officers of a rival union, UniteHere. These counter-protestors yelled during the speeches and mildly attempted to disrupt the rally, periodically taunting the main crowd. A few birds were flipped back and forth. The dispute had a little of the flavor of a boisterous crowd of competing fans outside a 49ers-Raiders game.

The genesis of this counterprotest was the recent UniteHere divorce in which most of the UNITE leadership left the union and joined the larger Service Employees International Union — taking on the name Workers United. Like Workers United, the demonstrators from UniteHere claimed that theirs was the proper union for the workers at the plant. To the consternation of Workers United but with the approval of UniteHere, Aramark is deducting dues from the paychecks of the workers but holding the money in escrow.

In spite of UniteHere's assertion that it is the proper union for these workers, its leaders admit that the fight is confusing for workers on both sides of the issue. That was clear in observing folks at the rally.

Once again, the silent presence at the rally was the invisible figure of Andy Stern, the national president of the SEIU. Much of this fight is really about how one sees Stern. UniteHere supporters believe he is a devilish figure and most of the leaders of major American unions agree. The left wing of the union movement and its supporters in the Bay Area are firmly opposed to him as well. However, Stern remains one of the most powerful figures in labor and he leads the movement's biggest union. He is extraordinarily active and creative. Many believe, like Edgar Romney said at the rally, that the SEIU is the "biggest and baddest union in the country." Workers who feel powerless often want a union led by a "big and bad" leader, like support for Jimmy Hoffa years ago in spite of his obvious personal flaws.

By [illegible]

Union supporters feud at Aramark rally. Why are union leaders putting workers in this position?

To make things even sadder, part of the dispute between Workers United/SEIU and UniteHere is really about who has power over the labor bank that was controlled by UNITE when it initially merged with HERE. The $4.5 billion Amalgamated Bank of New York is the only fully union-owned bank in the country. But contentious litigation is ongoing over the bank and other assets. Confusing events such as the dispute at this rally are likely to continue until the money fight is resolved. Then this particular dispute is likely to end. It is almost paralyzing to think that leaders on both sides would use these tactics in their intra-union fight.

In his speech, Workers United president Edgar Romney turned at one point to the members of UniteHere and implored them that the fight was not among workers but between the workers and Aramark. "The day will come when we will all be together," he told the crowd. That is probably true; however, given the way that union leadership is conducting its cannibalistic battles, the real question is what role the workers will have in that future. Given these disputes, will we see this solidarity on this Earth or, as the old labor song used to say, "in the sweet bye and bye?"

— Jay Youngdahl

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BART BRASS HANGS TOUGH

Agency board refuses to give in to union, negotiates new deal with workers, and avoids transit strike. Plus, downtown Berkeley is becoming a music mecca.

By Robert Gammon

A threatened transit strike earlier this week by BART train operators and station agents nearly brought the Bay Area to its knees. The strike would have caused hellish traffic jams and cost the region's businesses billions in lost productivity. And it would have forced the Bay Area to a virtual standstill if it lasted through Labor Day when the Bay Bridge is to be closed for repairs. But following a weekend round of intense negotiations, the BART union called off its planned labor action after it reached a tentative new deal with management.

BART brass deserves credit for hanging tough and refusing to capitulate to the union's demands. The tentative deal saves the cash-strapped agency about $38 million and allows BART management to meet its goal of slashing $100 million from employee compensation for all of the agency's workers, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. The deal also is for four years — not two years, as the union wanted. However, the union's rank-and-file members must still approve the pact, which is anything but a sure thing because they overwhelmingly turned down a similar deal last week.

In fact, it looked for a time as though the train operators and station agents were prepared to hold the Bay Area hostage until management met their demands. It also appeared as if the union was angling for a sixty-day cooling off period and a repeat of 2001, when then mayors Willie Brown of San Francisco and Jerry Brown of Oakland helped the train operators and station agents obtain a 22 percent raise over four years. But Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger refused to grant the sixty-day extension, forcing the union to either carry out its strike threat or head back to the bargaining table. With Bay Area residents appearing to have no sympathy for the well-paid union workers during a severe economic downturn, the train operators and station agents chose to avoid the picket line.

UC Theater to Become Concert Hall

So is downtown Berkeley suddenly becoming a music mecca? Not only is the new Freight & Salvage scheduled to open later this month, but the old UC Theater on University Avenue is on track to become a new large concert venue. The movie theater, which became famous for hosting midnight showings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* before closing several years ago, is to be operated by the owners of San Francisco's Slim's nightclub and the Great American Music Hall. Last week, the Berkeley Zoning Adjustment Board gave a unanimous green light to the latest version of the proposal, which would turn the UC into a 1,440-seat nightclub and concert hall featuring three levels of seating.

Oakland Helping Berkeley On Bayer

But as one new business knocks on Berkeley's door, another is thinking about packing its bags. The city's largest private employer, Bayer pharmaceutical company, is looking to control costs because it says it needs to revamp its facility and retrain workers to produce a new hemophilia drug. But Berkeley is trying desperately to keep the German drug maker from leaving town with an assist from the City of Oakland, which is proposing to help Bayer obtain millions in dollars of tax breaks. Under a proposal endorsed by Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums and the Oakland City Council, Oakland would expand its West Oakland enterprise zone to include a section of Berkeley that includes Bayer's facility, which employs 1,700 people, according to the *Berkeley Daily Planet* and the *Oakland Tribune*. If approved by state officials, the proposal could net Bayer up to $19 million over the next decade.

Foreclosures and Bankruptcies Jump

In yet more evidence that the nation's economy may not recover as quickly as hoped, the Associated Press reported that foreclosure filings jumped 32 percent nationwide last month compared to July 2008. One reason is that lenders have been unwilling to modify loans for homeowners who are in trouble, despite the Obama administration's efforts to convince them otherwise. Earlier this month, the Treasury Department reported that banks had extended only 400,000 offers to 2.7 million eligible borrowers who were more than two months behind on their payments. The AP also reported that fortunes for the commercial real estate industry looked equally as grim, as the number of property defaults climbed at a record pace.

At the same time, consumer bankruptcies nationwide jumped sharply last month — up 34 percent over July 2008, according to Bloomberg News. The American Bankruptcy Institute estimated that nationwide as many as 1.4 million consumers could go belly up this year. Economists said the bankruptcies could further jeopardize the health of banks as consumers seek protection from having to repay their loans.

Three-Dot Roundup

In more BART news, the agency's embattled police chief, Gary Gee, announced that he is retiring at the end of the year, following the BART Board of Directors' decision to limit his authority. Gee came under intense criticism for how he handled the investigation and aftermath of Oscar Grant's death last New Year's. ... A five-year-old Fremont boy allegedly went missing in Oakland's Rockridge District, but authorities are questioning the version of events provided by the kid's foster father. ... The state Legislature is considering a plan that could bring back the infamous Peripheral Canal, a statewide water project that generated a firestorm three decades ago before it was abandoned. ... State Democratic leader Darrell Steinberg followed through on his threat to sue Schwarzenegger over the governor's decision to make nearly $500 million in last-minute budget cuts. ... Some backers of a California gay marriage initiative said they will wait for the 2012 election, while others plan to forge ahead with a 2010 proposition campaign. ●

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Tech Talk

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Microsoft Reaches out to iPhone Users and Developers

by Mielle Sullivan, Janus Networks

Microsoft is promoting a study by a third party research group, Crimson Consulting, that documents how developer can port applications they have developed for the iPhone over to Windows Marketplace for Mobile. Although Microsoft's rival app store is not scheduled to open until late this year, the company is hoping the study will entice developers and bring competitive variety to the store.

The report centers on the iPhone app Amplitude, which turns audible recordings into graphical displays. According to Microsoft, Amplitude was an ideal app for the study because it is the type of high-quality app the company is hoping to have in its upcoming Windows Marketplace for Mobile. "It combines a rich user interface with features such as alpha blending (a computer graphics technique in which an image is combined with a background image) and transparency with specific audio and sound requirements, which makes it challenging to port the app but, at the same time, provides a number of helpful learning experiences," said Constanze Roman, a Windows Mobile community team manager.

Microsoft is late to the app store game, but its store will have some features that could give it an edge. By allowing users with older versions of Windows Mobile to access the store, it has created a ready audience of 30 million smartphone users for developers. This audience is comparable or slightly higher than the number iPhone users. Also, users can buy apps by credit card or through their carrier bill and can return apps within 24 hours if they chose.

The fact that Microsoft needs a special study and app store for ported iphone apps suggests they will perhaps always be riding behind the iPhone in app development. Nevertheless, 30 million Windows Mobile users will soon have a place to find apps and developers have a huge new audience.

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ECO WATCH

EBMUD BOARD USES LOTS OF H2O

As the agency moves ahead with a dam on the Mokelumne River, new documents show that three board members guzzle more than 400 gallons of water a day

By Robert Gammon

A majority of East Bay MUD board members indicated last week that they plan to plow ahead with a giant new dam on the Mokelumne River. As we reported earlier this year, the dam would nearly double the size of an existing reservoir in the Sierra Foothills and destroy a beautiful section of the Mokelumne that is popular for swimming, fishing, and kayaking. The board also indicated that it will not penalize water wasters with higher fees — even though such a plan would eliminate the need for the dam. And while the board's decision is already sparking outrage among foothills residents and environmentalists, newly released public records may hint at why certain board members are so intent on keeping the dam proposal alive.

According to records supplied by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the biggest proponent of the dam on the agency's board — John Coleman — is a heavy water user who has consumed about 663 gallons of water a day since 2000. That's nearly a quarter of a million gallons of water a year, far more than any other board member has consumed and far more than is used by the typical East Bay resident. Coleman also is the board's staunchest opponent of penalties for water guzzlers.

Contra Costa County public records show that Coleman resides in an upscale section of Walnut Creek in what Zillow.com describes as a five-bedroom, four-bath, 3,500-square-foot home on a large 26,000-square-foot lot. According to Google satellite photos, he has a large vineyard in his backyard.

John Coleman

Before buying the house in 2004, county records reveal that Coleman lived in an exclusive neighborhood in Lafayette. According to Zillow, it was a four-bedroom, three-bath, 2,500-square-foot house on a 25,500-square-foot lot with a swimming pool. Coleman used even more water when he lived there, averaging about 817 gallons a day from 2000 to 2004. After moving to Walnut Creek, his consumption dropped to about 534 gallons a day from 2005 through 2008.

Technically, Coleman has no legal conflict of interest because his positions affect a wide range of people. But there's no doubt that higher water rates would personally cost him hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars a year. Clearly, he has a personal interest in making sure that the dam is built and that water rates for heavy users remain relatively low.

In an interview, Coleman said he was no different from other politicians who are personally affected by their votes. "Not any more than members of the Legislature voting on taxes or tax rebates," he said. Coleman said he uses most of his water on his vineyard, which he described as taking up about a third of his yard. It also should be noted that last year, when the drought began in full force and the district implemented a surcharge on water use, his consumption declined to 463 gallons a day, which is a significant cut from previous years, although it's still a lot of water.

Coleman also asserted that he believes he uses about the average amount of water, or maybe less than average, for residents of his district, which includes Alamo, Danville, Lafayette, and portions of San Ramon, Walnut Creek, and Pleasant Hill. But where Coleman ranks compared to his neighbors is difficult to verify because East Bay MUD charges hundreds of dollars for that information. However, according to the agency, the typical homeowner uses less than 200 gallons of water a day.

Doug Linney

By contrast, Coleman appears to be among the largest residential water users in the East Bay. Agency officials told this reporter last year that during the summertime, the top 20 percent of the district's residential customers consume in excess of 750 gallons a day and most of them live in Contra Costa County. If Coleman has been using an average of 663 gallons a day year round, then he probably exceeds 750 in summer. In fact, Coleman said that he consumes only about 110 gallons a day during the rainy winter months, so his summertime usage must be way more than 750.

When Eco Watch told some dam opponents about Coleman's heavy water consumption, they said foothills residents will be unhappy about it. "It really angers people up here when the people who are adamantly pushing for a dam are also using a lot of water," explained Katherine Evatt, a foothills resident and president of the Foothill Conservancy, an environmental nonprofit dedicated to protecting the Mokelumne, "especially if it's for a hobby vineyard."

Evatt argued that although Coleman may be no worse than his neighbors, he should be setting an example as the vice president of a public agency whose primary responsibility is to be a good steward of the environment. "Yes, he's like his constituents in that he's using a lot of water and has extensive landscaping," she said. "But directors of the water agency should be leading the way with efficient water use."

The second largest user on the board is president Doug Linney, who lives in Alameda and consumed about 448 gallons of water a day from 2000 to 2008, or about 164,000 gallons a year. In contrast to Coleman, Linney said at the East Bay MUD board meeting last week that he is strongly leaning toward opposing the dam when it comes up for an official vote in October. He also questioned several of the assertions by East Bay MUD staff about why the agency needs the dam. In addition, he has expressed support in the past for steeper water rates for heavy water users.

But the third largest water consumer on the board is Katy Foulkes, who lives in Piedmont and like Coleman, supports the dam and has opposed some efforts in the past to penalize water guzzlers. According to agency records, Foulkes consumed an average of 440 gallons of water a day from 2000 to 2008, which works out to about 161,000 gallons a year. According to county records, Foulkes, who represents Piedmont and Montclair along with Moraga, Orinda and El Sobrante and portions of Pinole and Richmond, lives not far from Piedmont Avenue in what Zillow.com describes as a three-bedroom, 1.5 bath, 2,900-square-foot home on an 11,200-square-foot lot. According to Google satellite mapping, her backyard has a large, green lawn surrounded by shade trees.

Katy Foulkes.

She said she also uses most of her water in the summer. "I do have a large yard," she said. "The lot is over 10,000 square feet." Foulkes also said that although she and her husband live alone in the house, she often is visited by her grandchildren who bathe there. It should be noted that Foulkes also lowered her water consumption last year, using 369 gallons a day.

Foulkes doesn't support the dam proposal as strongly as Coleman. At last week's agency board meeting, she said she would be willing to go along with a smaller-sized dam that would destroy less of the river. And in an interview, she said she would back steeper rates for heavy water users, but only if residents east of the hills in hotter climates get a larger allotment of water before having to pay fines. "It's not fair if you let water wasters living on the cooler side of the hills get away with it," she argued. Coleman, by contrast, said he would oppose any plan that charges his constituents higher water rates.

It was impossible to determine the water usage of several of the other board members, including Andy Katz, who represents Berkeley and North Oakland, because they live in apartments or condos, and the agency doesn't track their individual consumption rates.

Last week's East Bay MUD board meeting was billed as a workshop to review alternatives to building the dam, including establishing a partnership with Contra Costa County Water District on its plans to expand Los Vaqueros reservoir. The board also was to analyze whether to impose steep rates for water guzzlers as other agencies have done throughout the West to lessen consumption. But in reality, the board meeting turned out to be a four-hour spin session, with agency staff and consultants doing their best to lay out arguments for why the Mokelumne should be dammed.

Dave Blau, an agency consultant who strongly supports the dam proposal, led the meeting and began by describing how population growth in the East Bay over the next three decades could make the dam necessary. Blau said that after talking to East Bay cities and hearing their growth estimates, his team determined that the agency's water demand would increase to 280 million gallons a day by 2040. But Linney immediately undercut this assertion by pointing out that it took nearly twenty years for water demand to recover after the last drought and recession in the early 1990s. In fact, a chart Blau prepared showed that water demand peaked in the late 1980s at about 215 million gallons a day and didn't recover to that figure until 2007. Blau also was forced to admit that their interviews with cities occurred before the recession and the housing collapse.

But that's not the only out-of-date information that the agency's staff and consultants were relying on. General Manager Dennis Diemer admitted during the meeting that water consumption this year had dropped dramatically and is on track to be about 190 million gallons a day — or about 24 million gallons a day less than expected — because of the recession and drought. Nonetheless, the agency's staff and consultants had failed to adjust their projections downward to account for this drop. As a result, the estimate that the agency will need 280 million gallons a day appears to be way off, and instead of justifying a need for the dam, Blau's presentation seriously undermined it.

Blau then critiqued higher water rates for heavy users, arguing that they won't work in the East Bay. He said his team had analyzed the steep rate structure in Irvine Ranch, California, a model that the Sierra Club had suggested the district examine more closely. Blau said his team determined that the district would lose money and fail to conserve water if it copied Irvine Ranch. However, he did not reveal that their analysis apparently only examined homeowners who don't use much water and didn't look at the effects of Irvine's model on water guzzlers.

Blau also criticized a proposal to team up on the Los Vaqueros reservoir expansion in eastern Contra Costa County, saying it would cost too much money. He said that because Los Vaqueros water is not as clean as the water that comes from the Mokelumne, it would force the district to spend tens of millions of dollars upgrading its water treatment plants. But Blau failed to disclose that a new 400-foot dam on the Mokelumne may cost $1 billion or more to build. And after a question from Katz, Diemer indicated that the district had not looked seriously at alternative water supplies it could receive from Contra Costa Water District that wouldn't require water treatment plant upgrades.

Judging from public comments, Blau's presentation failed to assuage any of the dam's opponents. Several dozen environmentalists and foothills residents showed up for the meeting, and argued forcefully against the dam. No one, other than agency staff and its consultants, spoke for it.

In fact, almost every public agency near the dam has come out against it, even though several of them are dominated by Republicans. Conservatives worry that the dam will destroy the area's growing tourist industry, while liberals and progressives also oppose it on environmental grounds. Indeed, key opponents include both the California Democratic Party and well-known GOP Congressman Dan Lungren, whose district includes the proposed dam. As Chris Wright, executive director of the Foothill Conservancy, noted at the meeting: "Whenever you have Lungren and the Democrats on the very same page ... it's unusual." ●

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FULL DISCLOSURE

DELLUMS GETS HIS MOJO BACK

Oakland's mayor beams while introducing the city's new police chief

By Robert Gammon

When Ron Dellums formally introduced the city's new police chief at City Hall on Monday, he grinned like a Cheshire cat. He confidently spoke at length without notes and repeatedly made eye contact with the dozens of reporters in attendance as he ticked off all the reasons why he selected Long Beach Police Chief Anthony Batts. It may have been Dellums' proudest moment as mayor and it felt like a turning point in his tenure in Oakland. Indeed, it's hard to imagine the city landing a better candidate.

According to state statistics, Batts assembled an impressive record in Long Beach, particularly when it comes to solving and reducing violent crime. Since taking over as police chief in 2002, the number of homicides there dropped from 67 to 40 last year, a 45 percent decrease. Overall violent crime dipped 13 percent. Dellums said that Long Beach's crime rate under Batts reached its lowest level since 1975.

By contrast, both the homicide and violent crime rates rose dramatically in Oakland in recent years under former Police Chief Wayne Tucker, who was hired by mayor Jerry Brown in 2005. Dellums also noted that the number of officer-involved shootings, which have also risen in Oakland, plummeted 70 percent in Long Beach on Batts' watch. "That's major," the mayor declared in a rare understatement.

As this newspaper has reported, one of the reasons Oakland's crime rate has skyrocketed is that the police department's ability to solve crimes has nosedived (see "Arrests Are Down, and Crime Is Up," 12/3/09). Again, by contrast, Long Beach's record for solving crimes under Batts' command has been strong. In 2002, the department solved just 37 percent of its homicides. But since then it has averaged 48 percent. By contrast, Oakland solved just 31 percent of its homicides, on average, during the same time. As for violent crimes, Long Beach's record has remained steady since 2002, while Oakland's dropped significantly.

But Batts appears to be far more than just a results-oriented chief. He has a doctorate in public administration, which is unusual for a cop, and a clear passion for policing and community building. He also exhibited an untamed and engaging personality, a welcome change from Tucker's often-dour demeanor. During the press conference, Batts sparked laughter from reporters when he donned a Raiders cap, joking that his love for the team was the real reason for why he chose Oakland.

According to sources, the Batts hire also has helped stir a buzz in City Hall about Dellums possibly running for reelection. Sure, it took a while for the former Congressman to hit his stride, but after the past few months, it's hard to see his main rival, former state Senator Don Perata, being a better mayor. If Dellums were to seek reelection, both men would be formidable candidates. ■

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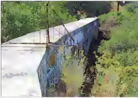

The infamous "bridge" at the Secret Sidewalk. Ken Betsa

THE SECRET SIDEWALK MAY NOT BE SECRET MUCH LONGER

Long-abandoned aqueduct is studied for possible inclusion into the East Bay parks system.

By Sam Levin

A few cars are parked near the dead end of Old Canyon Road. Groups of high-school students cut class and drive quickly to the end. They have just picked up six packs and have loose plans to meet some friends for a party. They are headed to a hideaway where they know they will not get caught or be bothered by police or parents. Some stop a few streets away to avoid arousing suspicion. Others leave bicycles or even motorcycles over the metal gate, which features a San Francisco Water Department "No Trespassing" sign. Some trespass from the highway and others climb a steep hill from the railroad tracks. Still others wait until nightfall to join. It is a mix of punkers, stoners, motorcyclists, hobos, and New Age hippies. They are there to party. There is always a party.

They are headed to the "Secret Sidewalk" of Niles Canyon. This is how Bryan Wike, Andrew Berg, and Terry O'Hern remember the days of their youth in the 1970s and 1980s — adventuring through East Bay Regional Park District land and patches of private property to reach an abandoned, concrete aqueduct.

The Secret Sidewalk is, for many residents of South Alameda County, a secret getaway from suburban civilization. A jump over the metal gate or climb under a barbed wire fence, and a precarious hike along some railroad tracks and up a hill takes the trespasser to an infamous aqueduct wide and sturdy enough to function as a concrete sidewalk. Today this enclosed concrete tunnel still weaves its incongruous way through the hills and valleys of Niles Canyon. "You have to really go through some hoops to get there," said Fremont Police spokesperson Bill Veteran. "It is kind of tough to find. That's why it's popular."

Well known locally, the hollow six-foot-wide structure — officially the Niles Canyon Aqueduct — for many decades carried the water of Alameda Creek from the Sunol Filter Galleries through the canyon to Niles Reservoir and beyond to San Francisco. According to Betsy Lauppe Rhodes, a spokeswoman for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, once the Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant was constructed in the 1960s, the Niles aqueduct was almost entirely decommissioned. But the structure remained. Use of this tunnel as a sidewalk and a passageway was only just beginning to surge at the time, Veteran remembered. Calls to the police were a lot more frequent thirty years ago, Veteran said, and are virtually unheard-of today.

But government officials are once again considering the Secret Sidewalk. The East Bay Regional Park District, which owns most of the land surrounding the sidewalk, and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which owns the aqueduct itself, are currently discussing the potential uses for the structure.

A year ago, the utilities commission began making plans to finish decommissioning the aqueduct. "We don't patrol that location like we used to when it was part of the system," noted agency Lands Management Division Manager Tim Ramirez. "We want to make sure we minimize risk and protect public safety. We don't authorize recreational use. It is not built for that purpose." Officials decided a good solution was to break down the structure, focusing first on an elevated portion where the aqueduct spans a fifty-foot ravine. This part of the sidewalk, known among teen travelers as "The Bridge," is little more than a huge liability for the aqueduct's owner.

But when East Bay Park District supervisor Steve Quick and his colleagues heard the news, they sent a letter to the agency asking it to halt planning so that they could discuss converting the aqueduct into

Continued on page 15

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MY SEARCH FOR THE SECRET

When the standard directions didn't work, I knew we needed help

We felt completely out of place. After a long BART ride from San Francisco to Fremont, two friends and I carried our bikes off the train into the unfamiliar city. Following our handy iPhone maps, we biked for a few miles until we reached Old Canyon Road.

But to get there, we had to weave along several residential streets, and we could feel suspicious eyes upon us. Somehow, we looked out of place, and we were giving off a vibe that we were out looking for trouble. After all, we were.

I'd had many conversations about the illegal party scene on the Secret Sidewalk, but somehow I had never managed to get concrete directions on how to locate it. "Drive to the dead end of Old Canyon Road, jump the fence with the 'No Trespassing' sign, hike down the railroad track into the canyon, follow it for a bit until you reach a large, steep hill on your right — climb it and you will reach the Secret Sidewalk." These were the directions I kept repeating over and over in my head.

My friends were relying on me — and they weren't confident. So when we reached Old Canyon Road, we arrived at a sign that said "You are now entering private property." Since it didn't seem like we had yet reached the dead end, I kept up my false confidence and continued biking along. Suddenly, we realized we were actually in someone's backyard.

We turned around and backtracked, and my two friends looked at me as if I was supposed to know what to do. I saw a sign that said "SFWD: No Trespassing," and another that said, "Do not park here. The last person who parked here is still missing." Maybe this was the dead end that every trespasser had talked about. But before I had time to dwell on it further, an older, grey-haired man with a dog came out of his door and yelled to us: "Don't go back there. You will be arrested."

I considered saying that I was a journalist writing a story about the Secret Sidewalk, but it didn't really seem like he wanted to chat. "The police are watching," he said. "They have video surveillance. Do not trespass."

So we biked away in the other direction, red-faced and defeated. The immediate unfriendliness of the man made me fairly certain that we were heading away from the exact spot that every expert had directed me to. I felt momentarily hopeless.

We paused in the middle of the street, looking all the more suspicious and directionless. I knew we needed help. When I saw two teenage boys bike by us, I had a feeling that they might have good advice. Once they stopped to chat with each other a block away, I biked after them and asked them awkwardly and abruptly, "Hey, do you think you guys could help us? We are trying to find the Secret Sidewalk."

"Ah, yes, the Secret Sidewalk," said one of the boys, who was named Ben. He said he had gone once or twice, but added that his girlfriend lived very close to it and goes more frequently. We were actually several streets away from the fence he had jumped to get there the first time he went. Ben, racking his brain to remember the route, led us up a very steep hill to a gate that blocked off the tall grassy hills of the canyon. He told us to jump the gate, climb through the barbed wire and bear to the left until we reached the sidewalk. He also said that we were on our own from that point forward.

We locked our bikes together and threw them into a nearby bush. We crawled through the first gate, then under a convenient hole in the barbed wire fence beyond it. We hiked for a bit in the tall grass under the hot sun. Finally, we saw a water pipe in the distance — a sign that we were maybe getting close to an abandoned aqueduct. We crossed over the pipe — and another barbed wire fence — and then I saw it in the distance.

"There it is!" I screamed with delight, followed by a huge sigh of relief. I soon realized that we were very close to someone's backyard, and I did not want to be spotted by another neighbor sick of trespassing teens. So we quietly climbed on to the aqueduct, which looked just like it did in all of the pictures I had seen online: a rough, concrete casing covered in graffiti.

To our left, the sidewalk continued just below a nearby house, up a steep hill, which at the top had a sign that read "Smile, you're on camera." In the other direction was the infamous and somewhat frightening "bridge" portion of the sidewalk. It was covered in graffiti and overlooked a huge drop with no railings on either side. In favor of avoiding getting caught, we crossed the bridge.

From there on, it was a peaceful hike. Highlights included thirty- to forty-year-old graffiti, the clay factory in the distance, an actual hole in the aqueduct that we could enter, and a few abandoned homeless encampments just off the trail. And except for three seemingly harmless travelers passing us by in the opposite direction, we didn't see anyone else. This trail really was a secret.

— Sam Levin

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ALAMEDA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY July 2009

Citizens Watchdog Committee

7th ANNUAL

REPORT to the Public

MEASURE B

In November 2000, Alameda County voters approved Measure B, which [illegible] the County [illegible] through 2022 and [illegible] Expenditure Plan [illegible] after engaging Measure B [illegible] the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), [illegible] officials from [illegible] Alameda County.

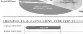
Measure B also [illegible] Citizens Watchdog Committee (CWC) [illegible] all ACTIA expenditures on projects, programs and administration for compliance with the Expenditure Plan, [illegible] timely delivery of projects. The CWC [illegible] annually to the public. This seventh annual report [illegible] ACTIA expenditures during [illegible] Year ending June 30, 2008, and CWC activities since [illegible] 2008.

More information on the following is available on our website:

www.actia2022.com

AT-A-GLANCE

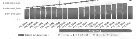
Total revenues for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 were $122.4 million. Audited expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2008, totaled $[illegible] million. The continuing economic decline which began in late 2008, is resulting in lower revenues and will have a significant effect on projects and programs. The CWC will continue to watch the situation.



CWC members met with ACTIA's auditor and reviewed Measure B's Audited Statement of Revenue and Expenditures under Measure B for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. **The CWC accepts the independent auditor's unqualified opinion that no accounting concerns were identified.** In addition, CWC reviewed the separate audit of the 4.5% administrative cost ceiling and the 1% administrative staff [illegible] mandated by Measure B and finds ACTIA in compliance.

Lastly, CWC reviewed the independent compliance audits of all jurisdictions receiving Measure B funds. **The CWC commends those partner agencies for passing their compliance audits.**

PROSPECTS & CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE



Measure B Sales Tax Revenues: Estimate versus Actual and Future Projected

ACTIA administers funds for both capital projects and program expenditures. This [illegible] estimates actual revenues received from Measure B through 2008/2009 and updated projections (vertical bars) and the original projected amounts (line) when voters approved the sales tax in 2000 [illegible]. **The result of lower than anticipated revenues will be a cumulative loss of more than $839 million during the life of the Measure, or the equivalent of approximately four years of revenues.**

The amount of Measure B revenues collected reflects the state of the County's economy. ACTIA capital projects and programs also are affected by the downturn. The economic impact on ACTIA capital projects is lessened by the ability to issue bonds to fulfill funding commitments. In addition, as often happens when the economy is weak, ACTIA and its partners are seeing significantly lower construction bid amounts.

Unfortunately, in the case of programs, which rely on monthly allocations to all jurisdictions and transit operators in the County, any economic downturn can have a direct affect on essential services funded by these revenues. Regular transit service as well as senior and disabled transportation services may be cut, fewer bicycle and pedestrian safety projects may be funded, and repairs to local streets and roads may be delayed. Moreover, the state budget crisis has made the situation even worse, as assistance for transit operators has been [illegible] for the next five years, and projects [illegible] state [illegible] affect the ability [illegible]

some Measure B [illegible] projects and programs. CWC will [illegible] the affect of the state funding [illegible] delivery of projects and programs.

Over the past year, many ACTIA capital projects [illegible] to receive [illegible] funds and [illegible] received federal economic stimulus funds, thereby maintaining the delivery of the projects and allowing many of them to go to [illegible] 2010. Five projects [illegible] meet the original funding [illegible] deadlines and received ACTIA Board approved extensions.

KEEPING WATCH

The CWC routinely receives updates on the progress of project and program implementation, and [illegible] delivery, particularly in relation to deadlines and requirements detailed in the voter approved Expenditure Plan.

CWC [illegible] all projects, programs and administrative costs over the past year and focused special attention on the following. See Table 1 below.

CWC ACTIVITIES

The CWC regularly reviews project and programs to monitor conformance with the Expenditure Plan approved by the voters, and meets annually with ACTIA's independent auditors to review their auditing processes. CWC also has the authority to request additional specific information to verify the accuracy of the financial statements through special ad hoc committee meetings. No ad hoc committees met during the past year.

ACTIA [illegible]

ACTIA PROGRAMS

Measure B funds, net of administrative costs, are separated into two broad streams: approximately 60% funds programs distributed to local jurisdictions primarily on a formula basis and through competitive grants, and 40% funds capital projects designated in the Expenditure Plan.

ACTIA Programs provide important local and flexible funding to all cities, the County and transit operators in Alameda County. These funds provide essential services, maintenance, matching funds for other grants, and capital improvements. Over $60 million a year is disbursed to fund day-to-day transportation services throughout the County. **Unfortunately, these funds are vulnerable to changes in the economy, and any economic downturn can have a direct effect on essential services funded by these revenues.**

ACTIA PROJECTS

The voters approved 26 [illegible] throughout the County for [illegible] improvements [illegible] sions, highway expansions, local [illegible] roads, intermodal [illegible] 2003, the ACTIA Board added the [illegible] Improve[illegible] Project [illegible] ed from [illegible] Measure [illegible] Emergency [illegible] Category [illegible] Relief Fund [illegible] in 2008 [illegible] is being closely [illegible] Management Program [illegible] that the CWC monitors.

ACTIA Project Construction Start Timeline as of Summer 2009

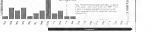


Table 1 Keeping Watch

Project No.	Project Name	Board Approved Extension: Environmental Clearance Deadline	Board Approved Extension: Full Funding Deadline	Current Project Cost ($ Millions)	Total Current Committed Funding ($ Millions)	Original Measure B Expenditure Plan Commitment in 1997-98 ($ Millions)	Escalated Measure B Commitment in 2008-09 ($ Millions)	Funding Uncertainty ($ Millions)	Percentage of Funding Uncertainty to Current Project Cost (%)
1	BART Oakland Airport Connector Project	Completed 2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	$0.0	0%
7A	Telegraph Avenue Corridor Bus Rapid Transit	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Route 92/Clawiter Whitesell [illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Dumbarton Corridor Improvements	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	I-580 Corridor/BART [illegible]	N/A	N/A	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

ACTIA

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority

[illegible] Broadway, Suite 100, Oakland, CA [illegible]

[illegible] www.actia2022.com

The sidewalk has been popular as a place for graffiti artists to ply their trade Rick Betts

The Secret Sidewalk May Not Be Secret ...

Continued from page 11

a legitimate hiking trail. "It would make a really neat trail connection," Quick said in an interview, arguing that it would not only possess the cultural and historical value of a trail that has been used for decades, but it could also function as the only safe pathway through the canyon.

Although it has not yet discussed the idea with the community, the park district is currently researching how it could convert this abandoned aqueduct into a functional component of its trail network. Creating an actual hiking path out of a hollow concrete water tube would not be easy, Quick said. After all, the "sidewalk" is inaccessible, has plenty of potentially fatal drop-offs, has never been tested for endurance, and it weaves through some private property. Park district officials are currently working to address these problems, and utility district officials said they are content to wait for the park district's decision.

While locals generally agree that activity on the sidewalk has declined, in some adolescent circles it is still an exciting hangout spot. "Oh, it is still the place to go hang out and make out," said local retailer Bruce Cates, whose son often went to the sidewalk when he was young. Many teens still head there to party or just to hike, said high-school student Casey Jennings and recent graduate Steve Christy. "There are the little secrets that get passed down from generation to generation here," added musician Michael McNevin.

Nearby home owners say they are extremely frustrated by the sidewalk's continued usage. And some are trying every way they can to deter outsiders from hiking, trespassing, or partying there. Some put up threatening signs that say "Smile, you're on camera," while others scold suspicious teens who approach the dead end. Several people who recently hiked the sidewalk warned about one man who threatens travelers by riding through the canyon on a four-wheeler with night-vision goggles while firing his rifle.

David Cartwright, who owns a lot of the private property where the sidewalk lies, didn't want to talk about it at all for fear that publicity would attract more trespassers. "Young people come out here but there is nothing to see," he said. "Let them know that anyone who comes out here will be arrested."

Don Dewey, a member of the city's homeless taskforce, said that the homeless population around and sometimes underneath the aqueduct also has decreased significantly in recent years. However, multiple encampments are still visible from the path today. And despite neighborhood efforts to discourage use of the Secret Sidewalk, many continue to enjoy the danger of trespassing to tag and to party.

Washington High School student Jennings heard about the sidewalk after questioning his father about the large white tube he saw while driving through the canyon. His father, Barry Jennings, who had gone there as a child himself, told him what it was. "I am 55 and have a very good memory, and I have never seen anything like it," the elder Jennings said. "It is so wooded and then all of the sudden you have this urban art that kind of smacks you right in the face."

Years after Casey first asked his father about the graffiti-tagged concrete protruding from the canyon, he asked for directions to actually get there. The elder Jennings reluctantly told his son which fence to jump and how to cross the railroad tracks before reaching the steep hill that would lead Casey and his fourteen-year-old peers to the structure. Casey said he has since gone to the sidewalk about 25 to 30 times. "It is really more of a nighttime scene," he said. "It really is a cool place to be — if you are smart about it."

But recent graduate Christy, who has gone to the sidewalk since middle school, said he doesn't go much at night because the mysterious homeless population can be threatening. "We go into the train tunnel, hang out there, then go and climb the pillars to the clay factory," Christy said. In the middle of the canyon and close to the sidewalk sit the remains of a clay-tile factory that locals say has been abandoned for decades. And, of course, this is another destination hot spot for parties. Near the factory and throughout the sidewalk, cans that once held beer or spray paint colorfully litter the grass alongside the aqueduct's brightly tagged walls.

Christy heard about the sidewalk from an older brother who presented it to him as a kind of challenge. "He described this bad place," he said. "And it made me want to go back there and find out for myself."

Indeed, while excursions to the sidewalk can be relatively calm, most regulars admit that frequent visitors are bound to have at least one memorable and negative experience. And many have lots of wild tales to share. Casey Jennings reported that he and his friends once witnessed a KKK meeting just off of the sidewalk where they were hiking. Five guys in white hoods stood holding crosses near the clay factory, he remembered. He and his friends didn't stay long to gather any further details. He also remembers watching from a distance as two evidently homeless men engaged in a violent fight.

On a quiet afternoon hike a few years ago, Christy and two other friends suddenly heard the sounds of an ATV four-wheeler roaring in the distance. Soon they saw an angry man driving toward them to chase them away. They scurried up the steep hill to the sidewalk where they ran from the man, who was rumored to possess a gun. "It definitely got my heart moving a bit," he recalled.

Andrew Borg, who went frequently in the early 1980s starting at age sixteen, heard of several people who died while traveling the sidewalk. He recalled once being followed by some dark figures that he and his friends saw in the bushes. He also said he had interesting encounters with homeless people.

Terry O'Hern, who went there as a teen in the 1970s, said that he would usually steal some beers, grab his motorcycle, and hop the fence. Only students from "the smoking area" of his high school would go; the academics and jocks weren't interested. For O'Hern, being sober on the sidewalk was a rarity.

"It was the place for social rebels," added Bryant Wake, a frequent 1970s trespasser. "You would meet people out there, or run into people you haven't seen in a long time." Wake said people loved to party on the sidewalk's precarious "bridge" — the very part the SF utilities commission recently wanted to deconstruct. Wake said he often liked to ride his bicycle across the sidewalk, even if it was littered with glass and overlooking a fifty-foot drop.

Most of these adults look back on their time at the *Secret Sidewalk* fondly, laughing at their youthful misdeeds. Many are also excited that it has the potential to become a legitimate hiking trail. "Yeah, I would be more inclined to go," O'Hern said when he heard the news. "I am not as young as I used to be." ●

Feedback@EastBayExpress.com

The sidewalk has been popular for decades Rick Betts

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ARTS & CULTURE

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LIFE'S A BUTCH

Studs, daddies, aggressives, tomboys, papis, trans-men, and their allies convene at this week's Butch Voices conference

By Rachel Swan

Joe LeBlanc is a poet, photographer and self-proclaimed music geek who mixes house paint for a living. He works at a Lowe's store by day and spends the rest of his time challenging gender norms. He characterizes himself as a "gender-queer" butch, meaning he's biologically female but comports himself as a man. He keeps his hair in a spiky crew cut, wears guy clothes, and favors masculine pronouns. He's grown accustomed to people mistaking him for a guy and doing the "Sir — 'Oh, sorry, ma'am'" thing. It's something LeBlanc's learned to deal with — like the confrontations in public restrooms, when other women see him and do a double-take. "I just try to smile," LeBlanc said. "If I present in a way that's non-threatening, it's usually okay."

Still, it's not that easy being a butch — or, for that matter, anyone who doesn't adhere to a bedrock essentialism of gender — in a world that maligns masculine women. LeBlanc grew up a tomboy and all-around jock — as a kid he played soccer, volleyball, basketball, and softball — and said he was always "pretty much the same," even when he had longer hair and identified as "she." Still, it took a long time to get comfortable with the butch identity. "Presenting masculine in a female body comes with threats of harm," he said. "And with people trying to figure out am I a man, am I a woman?"

Granted, the term "butch" has a lot of baggage. LeBlanc's main beef with butchness in pop culture is that retrograde image of the macho, blue-collar, congenitally brutish she-man — a person whose closest male analogue would be Stanley Kowalski or the Fonz. "I didn't feel like I fit the stereotype that was out there — that wannabe man from a working-class background who was supposed to be very mechanically inclined and had to be the man in the relationship," said LeBlanc.

It's hard to even say from whence that stereotype. Unless you count certain flannel-shirt-wearing rock singers of the k.d. Lang or Melissa Etheridge strain, butches scarcely exist in popular culture. Only three *L-Word* characters seem remotely virile, and of them only one fits the masculine-identified profile. Brandon Teena hasn't spawned a ton of imitators in Hollywood. Before the arrival of talk show host Rachel Maddow and *The Wire*'s Detective Kima Greggs, butches were all but invisible in pop culture. It was hard to carve out a niche, let alone build a critical mass.

Such challenges led LeBlanc to create the first-ever (as far as he can tell) conference for butches, studs, aggressives, and their allies. Called Butch Voices, it runs Thursday through Sunday at Oakland's Marriott Center and features workshops on body image, internalized misogyny, race and masculine identity, "the politics of passing," religion, class stereotypes, gender pronouns, online social networks, butch imagery in pop culture, and even flirting. It will also feature karaoke, networking dinners, a film night, a play party, and a couple of celebrity panelists — including drag king Jack Halberstam and filmmaker Kimberly Peirce (who directed *Boys Don't Cry*). LeBlanc got the idea for Butch Voices after attending a similarly themed femme conference put on by the Femme Collective. He thought it would be neat if butches could have their own forum for in-depth conversations about identity politics and gender transgression. He couldn't think of a place — outside the digital realm — where one could find a lot of butches sitting together at one time. Maybe it didn't exist, LeBlanc thought. But the demand was there.

Event Details
Butch Voices runs Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 20-23, at Oakland Marriott City Center (1001 Broadway). ButchVoices.com

Joe LeBlanc and Adrienne "Al" Davis.

His colleague Krys Freeman couldn't agree more. Freeman, who generally goes by a "s/he" pronoun but doesn't mind "she" or "he" (I'll use "she" for sake of clarity), is a former model with subtle features and perfect facial geometry. She says there are tons of pictures of her up on the Internet "in boy stuff and girly stuff." She once tried out for an Eminem music video. Now she gets stared down every time she uses a public restroom. "I have broad shoulders, I wear men's attire, and I have short hair," Freeman explained. "If you don't look at my face, you see a tall black man." That ambiguity comes to bear every time a cop pulls her over. "I can hear their tone change when they come to the window," she said.

Freeman is the logistics chair for Butch Voices. Additionally, she'll lead a workshop on relationships and networking called "Creating a Space for Lone Wolves." The title alone speaks volumes about fractiousness in the butch community. For one thing, butches have a hard time meeting and networking except through online forums like ButchFemme.com. Going out to clubs and social events can be futile, said LeBlanc, who meets most of her partners on the Internet. ("My desire is to be with a femme, and that's nothing I can get in a regular lesbian space — it's more androgynous people that partner with each other," he said.) Moreover, there's no tough political line to tie all butches together. Older butches disparage younger butches for ascribing male pronouns, as though it were a form of minstrelsy. Racism and sexism don't elude the butch subculture — just because you're transgressing gender lines, doesn't mean you're enlightened in every way. In fact, said Freeman, "I honestly felt like there hasn't been a community, even with all the work that we've gotten to do and that we still have to do."

Yet there's a certain sense of insularity to Butch Voices. The conference organizers have a unique taxonomy of gender and identity labels, and even their own patois. They've reappropriated the slang terms "stone butch," "tomboy," "bull dagger," "papi," "daddy," "faggot," and "stud," twisted them around and come up with different meanings for each. They've changed the word "aggressive" into a noun, to mean someone born into a woman's body who presents herself as a man. They don't all identify as butch, cautioned LeBlanc, although it's a useful catch-all term for masculine females or trans men. (Freeman, for example, would characterize herself as a stud or tomboy, if anything, while Butch Voices performance artist Arorita Smith calls herself a "soft stud.") But they do share a feeling of marginality that comes from having to prove yourself on a regular basis. "Sometimes pressures are put on us that aren't fair," LeBlanc said. "Our masculinity isn't celebrated as a man's is, but we're shunned from being feminine."

Then there's the problem of having a dearth of representation in pop culture and being saddled with stereotypes anyway. Freeman said that's part of what's driving her behind the Butch Voices conference. She can think of a few media figures who look butch-ish — Ellen DeGeneres, Queen Latifah, Da Brat — but none of them publicly identify that way. For the most part, she said, the butches you see in Hollywood or on mainstream television are cold-blooded gang bangers or stars in girl prison movies. Some of them fix cars all day. Some adhere to traditional codes of chivalry. Some are hunky. Most are anti-intellectual.

The cliché isn't hugely derogatory, but it's definitely one-dimensional. Thus, most butches pick and choose from the traditional attributes. Take LeBlanc, for instance. He can play sports, fix stuff, and take a woman out for a night on the town. But he also writes poetry and geeks out on Otis Redding love ballads. LeBlanc contends that it is indeed possible to be a man in a woman's body without devolving into caricature. But you can't speak through the filter of what a butch is supposed to be. ●

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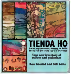

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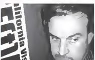

Ori Kaufman

Art's Quest to Survive

Art Quest 2 unveils a newly transformed 40th Street corridor

It's been a tough couple of years for car dealerships, which partly explains why Oakland's Broadway Auto Row — Broadway between 40th Street and Grand Avenue — doesn't quite make good on its name anymore. Once the territory of automotive servicers and big lots with pennants flapping in the wind, it's now a budding retail node. Chic nightclubs, body therapy centers, and furniture stores girdle the parking lots and the rim-and-wheel shops. This transformation is most noticeable on the southwesterly blocks that border Oakland's Uptown district and on the 40th Street corridor, which now has enough merchants and galleries to support its own mini Art Murmur.

Called **Art Quest**, the event began last February, the brainchild of local curator Ori Kaufman and sculpture artist Derek Weisberg. Both of them had openings on the same weekend — Weisberg at Rowan Morrison Gallery, Kaufman right up the street at Premium Tattoo and Vintage. The two decided to combine forces, thinking wouldn't it be something if they could involve the other neighborhood businesses. The 40th Street corridor was, after all, an ideal place for an art walk, said Kaufman. Many venues in the area doubled as galleries — including less-obvious spots like Manifesto Bicycles, Issues magazine shop, and 1-2-3-4 Go! Records. Most of these places had popped up within the last year or so, and were still trying to attract clientele. An evening of simultaneous receptions and extended hours of operation would help draw people to the area, and help create a neighborhood brand identity.

Thus, Kaufman and Weisberg got together with Premium Vintage and Tattoo owners Matt and Hillary Decker, Noelle Teele of Issues, and Pete Glover of Rowan Morrison Gallery to organize the inaugural Art Quest. It was a cinch, said Kaufman. "It's easy in the sense that there's so much art, and we're not really hurting for product or inventory." Their first edition happened on a rainy night in February, but tons of people came out anyway. Kaufman showcased his large-scale paintings at Premium, and put together a group exhibit in the back gallery at Manifesto. Weisberg showcased weird sculptural installations in Rowan Morrison. Matt Decker presented his meticulous, tattoo-inspired paintings at Issues. Bands performed. Vendors hawked artisan goods. It was a hit, said Kaufman, who hopes to replicate that success with Saturday's Art Quest 2, which now features two new businesses, 1-2-3-4 Go! Records and Subrosa Coffee. He's careful to note that art isn't a recession-proof business, and that if you think it's hard to sell a gas guzzler these days, try a painting. Still, the Auto Row galleries do have one thing in common with the dealerships that predate them: a common sense of purpose. "If you get the synergy and massiveness together," he said, "there's more of a chance." Art Quest 2 happens Saturday, Aug. 22, along the 40th Street corridor, 5-9 p.m., free. OaklandStreetArt.info

— *Rachel Swan*

ATTRACTIONS

Garden Days in the EnviroGarden Hands-on activities and demonstrations. Learn about water-quality gardening, composting, solar energy, and more. Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 12-4 p.m. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Molecularium: Riding Snowflakes A digital planetarium show that introduces Molecularium to atoms, molecules, and polymers. Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Sundays, 12:30 p.m. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photography, bath soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, clothing, scents, and more. Info: 510-238-4303. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods of Tilden Regional Park. Info: 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., $2 per ticket, or 5 tickets for $8. Tilden Regional Park, Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233.

Sunday Nature Adventures Learn about snakes, butterflies, lizards, and shellmounds, and their importance in the world we live in during this weekly program. This program is great for families and scout groups. Registration not required. Sundays, 2-3 p.m., free. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere, and more than 12,000 varieties, in fact. Free docent tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m., open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

Art Quest 2 Art and street fair along the 40th St. corridor with vendor booths from Manifesto Bicycles, Rowan Morrison Gallery, Premium Tattoo and Vintage, and 1234Go! Records. Sat., Aug. 22, 5 p.m.-10 p.m., free. Rowan Morrison Gallery, 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. RowanMorrison.com.

Chinatown StreetFest With more than 200 booths spanning 9 blocks, selling food, crafts, unique Asian treasures, and arts & crafts, and community outreach. Plus entertainment on three stages, and a Cultural Village presented by the Oakland Museum of California. For info, visit: OaklandChinatownStreetFest.org. Aug. 22-23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., free. Oakland Chinatown, 11th St. and Webster St., Oakland.

Oaklandish Radio Regatta Featuring discount rentals on rowboats, sailboats, kayaks, and paddleboats, free gondola rides, food, beer, and an FM micro-broadcast. Sun., Aug. 23, 1-7 p.m., free. Lake Merritt Sailboat House, 568 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-238-2196. OaklandCVB.com.

KIDS

Anime Club Anime Storytelling group for teens. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 3-5:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Art Classes for Oakland, with NIAD Kids Ages 8-16 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Minimum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St. (Florence Ludins-Katz Gallery), Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADArt.org.

Big Screen Anime & Raffle for Anime Third Thursday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St. (Oakland History Room), Oakland. 510-238-3222. OaklandLibrary.org.

PICKS

FreeStyle Xone

Salsa, reggae, krump, bogaloo, pops, breaks, turf. African. Sunday, Aug. 23's **"all styles" dance competition** at **La Peña Cultural Center** (3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) will feature just about every dance form that blends with the bedrock beat of hip-hop. Flame Yee Double & Rock Stars of Bedrock crew will preside over the contest, in which the local dancers will spar for a $250 cash prize. The event — called **FreeStyle Xone** — will also feature a performance showcase put together by Bedrock and Cee-Yah Ladees, plus tracks provided by DJs Green B & Danecks. Expect to see sleek sty-heeled twirlers mangling with homegrown b-boys. 7 p.m. $8. Competition begins at 8:30 p.m. LaPena.org. — *Rachel Swan*

Oaklandish Radio Regatta

Oak[illegible] a different version of [illegible] one where *gondolas* tool across Lake Merritt while pirate DJs broadcast from the sailboat house nearby. The organization's annual **Radio Regatta** celebrates leisurely, aquatic forms of transport and low-power FM. This year's iteration features a stellar lineup of DJs, Inna LN, Dongaspo, Joe Quixx, Marmar, and Sprocketty, all transmitting live on Sunday, Aug. 23, at the **Lake Merritt Sailboat House** (568 Bellevue Ave.), plus food, homemade radios, and half-price boat rentals. The regatta has become an Oaklandish summer tradition, along with urban capture the flag (held in downtown Oakland), salsa by the lake, and the famed Library Drive-In (an outdoor movie screening). 1-7 p.m., free. Oaklandish.com — *R.S.*

Senior Kayaking

It is never too late to learn how to boat. East Bay elders can join novice kayakers at **Lake Chabot** (17600 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley) this Saturday, Aug. 22, for an **introductory lesson** in taking a spin around the water. Techniques, terminology, and then launch is all a part of the program that is open to all interested, age fifty and up. The guides will go through safety and equipment before the first paddle is placed in the lake. 10 a.m. $40. Registration required. Call 888-EBPARKS. — *Kibby Kleiman*

Children's Fairyland Robinson Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 11 a.m. $8. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259. Fairyland.org.

Children's Chinese Dance Polly Cho teaches the ceremonial, dramatic, seasonal, and agricultural aspects of Chinese dance. Thursdays, 11 a.m.-noon, 12-1, 1-2, 2-3 & 3-4 p.m. $10 per class. Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Cultural Drawing [illegible] teaches the fundamental skills involved in Chinese painting and drawing. Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m. $55 a month, $150 for 3 classes (materials included). Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 388 9th St., Oakland. 510-637-0455. OACC.cc.

Tune My World A creativity workshop for kids grades 2-12. Please [illegible] [illegible] Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m. $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Cowboy Story Singing, animation, and instruments for young children. Fridays, 10:30 a.m., free. Crossroads Community Center & Coffeehouse, 1300 High St., Alameda. 510-881-0900. CrossroadsCoffee.org.

Dog Day Thursday Kids in grades 1-5 read to specially [illegible] Reading Ed [illegible] Annalisse Togh. Thursdays, 3 p.m. Robinson through Sept. 3. free. Albany Library, 1785 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

East Side Ambition Teen Club Teen club for teens and middle school students. [illegible] for the current book title, call District at 510-615-8626. Third Wednesday of every month, 4 p.m. free. [illegible] Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

FemReachMCA This Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to earn community service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are [illegible] in leadership and facilitation skills, and then put these skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. [illegible] their own [illegible] plans and activities, such as sign language, singing French songs, team games, and team games. Thursdays, 2:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc., Meyers Center (1724 Santa Clara Ave.), Alameda. 510-521-1743. GirlsIncIslandCity.org.

Kerry's Kids Justin Robinson [illegible] physicians are Bob Stele, Beatriz Marin, and [illegible] Pimentel. [illegible] Monday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m. Henry Robinson Multiservice Center, 559 16th St., Oakland. 510-415-1010. [illegible] thirty and child's yellow immunization card. 510-444-4526.

Ambition ... Self [illegible] for Girls Certified instructor from Connolly [illegible] these classes just for girls ages 10-15, combining elements of tae-bo, yoga, karate, and kung fu into a noncompetitive, nonaggressive workout. Tuesdays, 4:15-5:15 p.m. $15 drop-in rate, $100 for unlimited classes/month. 510-847-2400. AlbanyKarate.com. Albany Karate for Kids, 1243 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-524-9293.

Lakeview Chess Club facilitated by Gail Saxon. Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District The district offers aquatics, golf, sports teams (including soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball), activities for classes and children of all ages, and more, at locations throughout Livermore. Call 925-960-2400 for more info. Daily. LARPD.dst.ca.us/activities. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 E. Ave., Livermore.

Magical Puppet Theater Sing-Along Micah and Meko of the Magical Puppet Theatre present a fun and engaging puppet show. Saturdays, 10 a.m. $4.50 for kids, $2 for each additional sibling, free for adults and infants. Sadie Bay's Café, 3[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]

Dance Dance for Kids [illegible] in [illegible] Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] College of [illegible], 1804 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-[illegible]. [illegible]Yoga.org.

Pajama Storytime Third and Fourth Monday of every month, 6 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 5871 Adeline St., Oakland. 510-238-7[illegible]. OaklandLibrary.org.

Pajama Storytime Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Peter Pan, the Musical Elizabeth McKay directs this Berkeley Playhouse production with musical direction by Phil Thomas. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2 p.m., Sundays, 1 & 5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 23. $12.50-$35. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. BerkeleyPlayhouse.org.

Play Soccer Consent of all ages [illegible] Snacks provided. For activities or to register, call 925-249-3903. Daily. Child Care Links, 1000 Sequoia Ln. (Suite 304), Pleasanton. 925-249-3803. ChildCareLinks.org.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting Call 510-238-3400 for details. Third Thursday of every month, 5:15 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190 (Pacific Renaissance Plaza), Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Game Club For young fans of superhero entertainment. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728. OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Time Thursdays Manga, anime, board games, and movies. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Tot Time / Bare [illegible] Children's program features stories, music, and magic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.), Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Wildlife Discover On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet more animals and learn cool nature facts. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m. Sundays, 1:45 p.m., free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Soccer Sports Schedule Grades 6-12 and at least [illegible] children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

LGBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays A drag gathering where transgender girls, cross-dressers, and their admirers are welcome. Enjoy karaoke and a large selection of clothing for the women in you. Dress up, pose for [illegible] photos, and get chosen tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-20 donations requested. [illegible] I Love It, 35879 Warm Springs Blvd. #7, Fremont. 510-656-4[illegible]. [illegible]

East Bay FrontRunners Join the East Bay group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly Harmony Saturdays, 9:15 a.m. free. Eastbay-FrontRunners.org. Berkeley [illegible], 2[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6380.

Express 20s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their 20s in the East Bay. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. $5-$15 suggested donation. 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBT Weight Watchers Meeting E-mail Jeanne [illegible] for more info. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $9-$22-$12. Finnish Kaleva Hall, 1970 Chestnut St. (upstairs), Berkeley.

LGBT Teen Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays, arts/crafts/writing/music. Wednesdays, youth leadership. Thursdays, hot topics/guest speakers. Fridays, movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m., Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m., Free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Transgender Legal Clinic AIDS Project East Bay and the Transgender Law Center sponsor a monthly legal clinic. [illegible] you can visit one-on-one with an attorney for thirty minutes to discuss transgender legal issues. Third Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Transgender Law Center, 1800 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-865-0176. Transgender-LawCenter.org.

Trip the Light Fantastic Beginning are welcome to learn and participate in two-step, East and West Coast swing, waltz, and nightclub two-step, some Lindy and line dances. First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m. $10-$20 sliding scale. [illegible] 510-763-1343. TriptheLightFantastic.org. Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510/594-2870. LakeMerrittDanceCenter.org.

Soccer Gargoyle Drag Show [illegible] Tynes, Cassandra Cass, Rusty Hips, and Diva Cox. Sundays, 8 p.m. Continues through Sept. 6. $5. White Horse Inn, 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-3820. WhiteHorseBar.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

World of the Man Party Theme party for which women are invited to bring as many single men as they know. Fri., Aug. 21, 6 p.m., $15. Concord Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., Concord. 925-827-2000. ConcordHilton.com.

Black Master Quiz Trivia game for cash and [illegible]. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., free. Beckett's, 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. BeckettsIrishPub.com.

Nomad-ical Trivia Game Hosted by Justin & Tom. Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Nomad Café, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

The Living Philosophers Group Weekly discussion group. Fridays, [illegible] a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir Rehearsals Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Interfaith Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-5411. InterfaithCC.org.

Stitch 'n' Bitch Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m., free. Caffe Trieste, 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5198.

Weekly Sing-Along Led by Billy Allen. [illegible] All ages, no experience necessary. Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m. Albany Library, 1215 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

Albany High School "Save Our Sports" Golf Tournament & Dinner Auction Golf tournament and dinner auction to raise $50,000 for sports programs at Albany High School. Fri., Aug. 21, 9 a.m. & 6 p.m. $50-$150. Tilden Park Golf Course, Grizzly Peak and Shasta Rd., Berkeley. 510-848-1373. TildenParkGolf.com.

Fun [illegible] Program: [illegible] de Soccer [illegible] include gardening, arts, making movies, history, cooking, cultural [illegible] and nature. Reservations required. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 2-8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20. free. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-6342. PeraltaHacienda.org.

Hands-On Bicycle Shop REI bike technician shows how to [illegible] and maintain [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]. Aug. 23, 11 a.m.-noon, free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Midnight Soccer Soccer Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 11:45 p.m. free. Oaklandish.com. Team Plaza, MacArthur Blvd. (at Lakeshore Ave.), Oakland.

Pan Nomads Ride Team Weekly Ride Ride Leisurely [illegible] 25-mile loop up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley Hills. [illegible] days, 8 a.m. free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

[illegible] Kungfu and Qi Gong District Students learn the [illegible] of [illegible] is [illegible] Shao [illegible] the [illegible], eyes, body and feet. Through Feb. 1, 2010. [illegible] Fat Man Temple, 2130 Berkeley Wy., Berkeley.

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MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Ehren Tool's untitled cups.

Berserkers

A group show at Red Door Gallery gets violence

Most of us practice safe violence vicariously through movies and video games, but the enraged teabaggers who packed heat to town hall meetings this week show that our addiction transcends low-rent entertainment. Texas, we've got a problem. The title of this show, *Insights of Life from the Shadows of Death*, comes from James P. Anderson, a convicted San Quentin Death Row inmate believed by some to be unjustly convicted (and showing his symbolist surrealist paintings here), so perhaps we can be serious for a few minutes and confess that all of us consider violence a form of existential self-assertion and sometimes enjoy running joyously amuck, like Hyde released from stodgy Jekyll.

Curated by **Lisa Rasmussen** and **Lauren Odell Usher**, *Insights* features work in all media. The photographers include Steve Davis, who portrays incarcerated teens in Washington state; Lisa Rasmussen, who depicts aspects of a ritual healing; and Helmn Fischman, who captures the squalid home of one Shimshon Kleger, of Auschwitz, Poland, a war survivor who lived, emotionally shattered, in the family home behind the synagogue until his death in 2000. Mixed media and installation are represented by Jos Booth, who likens her childhood experience of violence with the 2003 bombing of Iraq in "Flesh Burning"; Dorothy Nissen, who treats the war mythologically in "Deicide + Cyclops at the Riverbank Near the Garden of Eden"; Mary Mitchell, who pairs a photo of a Sudanese boy with an Iraqi's mournful judgment, "This war makes hearts like stone"; and Lisa Nowlain, who in her "Secret War Series" attempts to come to terms with the 1965-75 bombing of Laos: 260 million bombs dropped, nearly a third of which remain undetonated today — essentially land mines. The painters include Marc Watson, whose parricide-themed painting, "My Father's Sins," is both cartoonish and disturbing, as is Jose-Luis Segura's "War Child," depicting an African boy-soldier surrounded by bombed, strafed stick figures secreting balloons ghosts; Karen Gutfreund merges mosque and church, Muslim and Christian, in "We Believe," with its typed chant, "There is no god but god." The show's two sculptors here make pithy points. David Wander Cumming's "American Exceptionalism" depicts three G.I. Joe dolls reconfigured into the familiar trio of blinkered monkeys; and Ehren Tool, a Gulf War vet, shows shelves full of scathing antiwar cups festooned with violence porn: weaponry, crosses, flags, slogans, dictators, generals, babes, and human remains. Red Door's community outreach gallery features artwork by members of BAYWAR (Bay Area Women Against Rape) and the Gorgeous Mosaic Foundation. Through August 30 at **Red Door Gallery & Collective** (416-26th St., Oakland). RedDoorGalleryandCollective.com or 510-290-7061.

—*DeWitt Cheng*

ART GALLERIES

33 Revolutions Records Shop & Cafe. Sustainable Cities of Intelligence: Paintings by Mark Schwabe. Through Aug. 31. 10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-898-1835, 33revolutions.com.

ABC Warehouse Space. Challenge of Champions: Community art exhibit commenting on Oakland Parklands. Through Dec. 19. 2020 [illegible] St., Emeryville. ABCArtSpace.com.

Alta Galleria. Anthony Holdsworth: Cityscape Paintings Through Aug. 29. 2980 College Ave. (Suite 4), Berkeley. 510-414-6485, AltaGalleria.com.

Culture Wines and Gallery. Marlon Segura: Ingenue Presenting new works in [illegible]. Through Aug. 23. 1087 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-3400.

Bedford Gallery. Full Circle: A Diverse History of Skate Art Exhibition features more than 400 decks borrowed from skaters and companies from across the country. Through Sept. 13. 1601 Civic Dr. (Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts), Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet Exhibition explores relationship between humans, communities and the natural world, featuring work by [illegible]. Through Sept. 27. 2625 Durant Ave. (UC Berkeley campus), Berkeley. 510-642-0808, BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch. Naked: A Life in Bikes Exhibit features work by Oakland photographer and bike [illegible] Nancy Dunnigan. Through Sept. 30. 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.), Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Blankspace. Now Do You Know An exchange show of Irish works curated by Gallery 126 in Galway, Ireland. Through Aug. 30. Free. 6608 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-547-6688, BlankspaceGallery.com.

Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery. The Many Faces of Frida Frida Kahlo group works and curated by Rachel-Anne Palacios. Through Aug. 28. 1515 Clay St. (State of California Office Building atrium), Oakland. 510-622-8190. OaklandCulturalArts.org.

Float Center. The Moose Meet Female Big Dark Encaustic drawings and [illegible] types by [illegible], plus [illegible] by Sandy Sewan. Through Sept. 19. 1091 Calcot Pl., #115, Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com.

H Julian Designs. Patricia Gillespie Exhibit Displaying sculptures made of fabric and wood. Through Aug. 29. 1798 Solano Ave. (at Delaware St.), Berkeley.

Institute of Sacred Art. [illegible] Student/Faculty Exhibit: Student exhibition [illegible] of the Mind's Eye [illegible]. Student Sculpture. [illegible], introduction to Glass [illegible], and Variegate [illegible]. Through Aug. 30. Free. 5001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-9800. InstituteofSacredArt.com.

Johansson Projects. Edit Works by Jaime Danger. Through Sept. 18. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Lucky Ju Ju Pinball Art Gallery. Transformers Exhibit: Found Object Reconstructions by The Earthart Through Sept. 2. 713-E Santa Clara St., Alameda. 510-205-9793. LuckyJuJu.com.

Lukaris Expresso & Antique Store. Teg Arts and Craft Faire Arts & crafts faire with work by local artists. Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. Free. 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4577. LukasOakland.com.

Mercury 20 Gallery. Cities and Deities New paintings by Maya Kabat. Through Aug. 29. **Everyday Readers:** Drawings and paintings by Mary V. Marsh. Through Aug. 29. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-701-4620. MercuryTwenty.com.

Museum on Main. Imagination Unground 2009. Pleasanton Art League show with oil paintings, acrylics, [illegible], watercolors, sculpture, [illegible], and photography by [illegible] artists. Through Sept. 11. 603 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-462-2766. MuseumOnMain.org.

Olive Hyde Art Gallery. Woodturners Invitational Featuring works by Bay Area Woodturners Association and Silicon Valley Woodturners. Through Aug. 30. 123 Washington Blvd., Fremont. 510-791-4357. Fremont.gov/recreation/olivehydeartgallery.

Rowan Morrison Gallery. Museum. New Stories by Carl Auge: Solo exhibition features large scale oil paintings on canvas and smaller watercolors on glass. Through Aug. 22. 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. RowanMorrison.com.

Sacred Rose Tattoo/SRT Gallery. The Cryptozoonomicon of Beth Wolborsky: Museum Remains in Exhibit and Infusion [illegible] showcases new visual art. Through Sept. 20. 1720 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-1083. SacredRoseTattoo.com.

San Pablo Library. Culture the Bounds: NIAD Art Center Paintings, drawings, mixed media, and sculpture by artists at the Richmond Institute of Art & disabilities. Through Sept. 13. San Pablo Community Center, 2000 Portal Pl., San Pablo.

Swarm Gallery + Gallery. Natural Selection: New paintings and site-specific installations by Vaughn Bell and Josh Keyes. Through Sept. 13. 560 2nd St., #101, Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmStudios.net.

Zza's Trattoria. Iron and White Exhibit curated by Ora Kaufman featuring works by Clarisse Wenzel, Brian Caraway, Sarah Filley, Dana Fenwick, James Hall, Rosa Higgins, Ira Kaufman, Renee Lollega, Tim Nelson, Nathaniel Parsons, Renee Porter and Alex Rossinoli. Through Aug. 21. 552 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-839-9124. Zzaatre.com.

PICKS

The Many Faces of Frida

Artists, like saints, can become whatever each viewer wants them to be, posthumously. Frida Kahlo's paintings are extraordinary enough on their own, but it was the mythic quality of the painter's agonized/ecstatic life as surrealist, Latina, bisexual, communist, unconventional beauty, and tough cookie (despite horrendous medical afflictions) that has attracted not one but many cult followings over the past thirty years. In this show, curated by **Rachel-Anne Palacios**, 31 artists created works dealing with the various intersecting, overlapping Fridas: the historical person (Crespo, Sanchez); the heroine of creative self-realization (Arias, Carr, Engebretson, Moreno, Ortiz, Sanchez/Rodriguez/Palacios, Vilas); and the immortal goddess or symbol of *mestizo/a*-hood (Arias, Newman, Gangora). A few pieces even mirror the consumerist side of revolutionary fridamania (Pocada, Tabela, Yanez). Closing reception and talk happens on Thursday, Aug. 20, 5-8 p.m. *The Many Faces of Frida* runs through August 28 at **Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery** (1515 Clay St., Oakland). OaklandCulturalArts.org or 510-622-8190. — *DeWitt Cheng*

Maye Kabat and Mary V Marsh

Maya Kabat's heavily impasted oil paintings (*Cities and Deities*) and Mary V. Marsh's block portraits on old library-book checkout cards (remember those?) (*Everyday Readers*) might seem an odd pairing, but they share a graphic sensibility despite their differences. Kabat's square-format works, made with various scrapers manufactured for Sheetrock mud, are intuitive, improvised searches for stability within "constantly shifting external and internal environments ... [where] nothing is fixed." The patches in these slathered/excavated paintings suggest quilts, but the gestural abstraction of these "little worlds of pattern and color" invokes Hofmann, Diebenkorn, and Kline. Marsh, who works in an art library, sees the checkout cards of yesteryear with their fading signatures, both poetically and conceptually. She carves block-print portraits of these vanished readers, asserting, in time-honored realist tradition, that the humble and quotidian is worthy of art. Through August 29 at **Mercury 20 Gallery** (25 Grand Ave., Oakland). www.MercuryTwenty.com or 510-701-4620. — *D.C.*

Resound

The *mediasphere* is a major theme in contemporary art, so **Carl Auge**'s interest in representing invisible, ubiquitous heat, sound, light or shock waves is less surprising than the somber emotion that pervades these oil paintings. Here, buildings are loosely rendered, either in elevation or in oblique view, and set against backgrounds tinted in Expressionist hues: sullen greens, steely blue-grays, and rancid yellow-ochers. The black brushwork atop colored backgrounds recalls Sutle; the restless movement recalls Munch's surging universe and the rippling surface seems distorted by heat. Auge's monumental architecture keeps the energy contained, however. The flight of stone steps in "Building a Pyramid" leads skyward but remains earthbound, a spoiling petrified skyscraper. The bank facade depicted in "Brown Sky" seems less a cheery brand-name product placement than hubris on a mausoleum. Radiate and fade away. *Resound* runs through August 22 at **Rowan Morrison Gallery** (330 40th St., Oakland). RowanMorrison.com or 510-384-5344. — *D.C.*

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum. Museum Gallery: Exhibit features works from the BAM collection [illegible]. Through Dec. 20. **Gallery: A Hundred or So Stars Visible to the Naked Eye** Through Aug. 30. **Oakland Grant: Rocco, Egg, Toast in Lard/Matrix 228:** Solo exhibition curated by [illegible] several shaped paintings [illegible] sound component created by [illegible] Jones, and a twenty-five [illegible] painting called Suicide Notes to the Self. Through Oct. 11. **Theresa Hak Kyung Cha: Earth** [illegible]. Through Aug. 30. 2625 Durant Ave. (UC Berkeley campus), Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Judah L. Magnes Museum. Projections: Multimedia ways [illegible] the museum's collections of archival documentary and experimental films. Daily. **Memory Lab:** Interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family stories and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and souvenirs. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950, Magnes.org.

Oakland Museum of California. Future in Sequoias: Sustaining Parklands in the 21st Century: Photographs by Jeff Jones and prose by retired National Park Interpretive Ranger Robert C. Pavlik. Through Aug. 23. **Oakland Chronicles: Inbound Collages:** Featuring mixed-media works by students from Oakland High's Visual Arts Academy. Through Aug. 23. **Squeak Carnwath: Painting is No Ordinary Object:** Senior curator Karen Tsujimoto presents more than 40 of Carnwath's paintings. Through Aug. 23. **The African Presence in Mexico: From Yanga to the Present:** Bring the history and culture of enslaved Africans brought to Mexico in the 1500s. Exhibit covers the story of Yanga, a runaway slave after the abolition of slavery in 1810, the Mexican War of Independence, and 19th-century casta paintings. Through Aug. 30. 1000 Oak St. (at 10th St.), Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. Native Californian Cultures: This "visible storage" exhibition comprises about 500 objects from the museum's collection of Native California cultures. Daily. **From the Ancient World:** From the permanent collection: a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru plus Mexico, Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. Kroeber Hall (UC Berkeley), Berkeley. 510-643-7648, HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

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THEATER & DANCE

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Awake and Sing! Depression-era drama by Clifford Odets, directed by Joy Carlin. Starting Aug. 21. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Sept. 21. $15-$55. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-843-4822, AuroraTheatre.org.

The Farm Hip-hop version of George Orwell's Animal Farm. Adapted and directed by Jon Tracy and produced by Shotgun Players. Saturdays, Sundays, 4 p.m. Continues through Sept. 13. $18. John Hinkel Park, 41 Somerset Ave. (between San Diego Rd. and Somerset Pl.), Berkeley, 510-981-5050, www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/parks/parkspages/JohnHinkel.html.

Happy Days Jonathan Moscone directs this irreverent comedy by Samuel Beckett. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 4 p.m.; Tuesdays-Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Sept. 6. $40-$58. Bruns Memorial Amphitheater, 100 Gateway Blvd. (off Highway 24 east of Caldecott Tunnel), Orinda, 510-548-9666, CalShakes.org.

Lost Directed by [illegible]. Starting Aug. 21. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 30, 2:30 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 13, 2:30 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 20, 2:30 p.m. Continues through Sept. 26. $14. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-232-4031, Masquers.org.

Not a Genuine Black Man Brian Copeland's one-man show about growing up in a racially segregated San Leandro neighborhood. Saturdays, Sundays, 3 p.m. Continues through Aug. 23. $30. Off-Market Theater, Stage 250 (965 Mission St.), San Francisco, 415-646-0776.

More Listings Online
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LIVE VARIETY

Cody Sai Spring 2009 Collection Presentation Fri., Aug. 21, 1-4:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Motion Studio 1, 2332 4th St. Studio [illegible], Berkeley.

[illegible] Shorts, animation, documentaries and features by new Cuban filmmakers, curated by the Instituto Cubano de Arte e Industria Cinematográficos (ICAIC). Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 28. $8-$10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Third Reel Art House Film Series: [illegible] Popcorn, soda, beer, and [illegible] science fiction film screenings. Third Thursday of every month, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20. $5-$10. Golden Bridge Lofts, 330 12th St., Oakland.

Waterfront Flicks Outdoor movie screenings at the east lawn across from the new Jack London Market Building. Plus trivia and 4 free specials. For info, visit JackLondonSquare.com. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20, free. Jack London Square, 11 Washington St. (foot of Broadway), Oakland, 510-627-1678, JackLondonSquare.com.

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Bellydance Bay Workshops and More Mixed level workshops on everything from technical technique to makeup to finger cymbals. Plus a show by Oakland Bellydance. Sat., Aug. 22, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. $15-$20. [illegible] Dance Studio, 4128 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland.

FreeStyle Zone [illegible] Crew & [illegible] present a showcase and "all-styles" dance competition for $250, with [illegible] & showcase [illegible]. Hosted by the Double & Rock [illegible]. Sun., Aug. 23, 1 p.m. $8. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Live about Music Beginning and intermediate dance lessons, plus a live musical performance by a different artist each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $10. [illegible] Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159, ShattuckDownLow.com.

COMEDY

Comedy by Michael" Fourth Saturday of every month, 8 p.m., $10-$15. Englander Sports Pub, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3570, EnglanderPub.com.

Comedy Night hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 7 p.m., free. BrainWash Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-861-3663, BrainWash.com.

Comedy @ Broadway With a rotating cast of comedians featured on HBO, Comedy Central, Late Night Shows. For info, visit ComedyAtBroadwayOakland.com. Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $15. Washington Inn, 495 10th St., Oakland, 510-452-1776.

Comedy Zone hosted by [illegible] and rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m., $10. Rockit Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco, 415-387-6344, RockitRoom.com.

Darren Carter: The Party Starter Thu., Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 21, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 22, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 23, 7 p.m. $15-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

Gary Conrad Tue., Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m. $10-$20. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

Kabeezy Wed., Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m.; Wed., Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m. $10. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

Magic & Wonder w/ Big Al Cohen & Friends. Fred bring you an intimate theater performance of magic and comedy [illegible]. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $20. Off-Market Theater, Stage 250 (965 Mission St.), San Francisco, 415-646-0776.

Tuesday Night Mic w/ a rotating lineup of SF Comedy College alumni. Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., 4th Fl., San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

Open Mic Comedy presented by SF Standup. Tuesdays, 8-9 p.m., free. Annie's Social Club, 917 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-974-1585, AnniesSocialClub.com.

The Ramona Zone comedy variety show hosted by Paco Romane. Last Ramona day of every month, 7:30-10 p.m. $7. Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St., San Francisco, 415-647-2888, MakeOutRoom.com.

[illegible] Showcase w/ rotating acts. Fridays, 8 p.m. $12-$15, http://www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., 4th Fl., San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

SF Comedy Carnival Sundays, 8 p.m. $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco, 415-397-4337, SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

About Day Zone w/ rotating acts. [illegible] days, 8-9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., 4th Fl., San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

Thursday Night Fling w/ rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., 4th Fl., San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

PICKS

Kabeezy

From [illegible]-based comedian **Kabir "Kabeezy" Singh** has no reservations about lowbrow humor, racial stereotypes, or jokes that hit below the belt. He makes fun of pretty much every ethnic group (especially his own), recounts squirmy conversations with not-so-culturally-enlightened white friends, and exploits his Indo-American heritage by frequently using a well-practiced, Apu Nahasapeemapetilon-style accent. But Kabeezy's best material isn't his most offensive. He also does quirky, geeky bits like the joke about naming his child "Relax" (ergo, "Relax Singh"), which actually sounds cute coming from the mouth of a 24-year-old dude. Since winning the Rooster T. Feathers Comedy Competition a few months ago, Kabeezy's enjoyed a sudden surge in popularity. He performs several times a week, slogging road and purging his insecurities on stages throughout the Bay Area. Kabeezy graces **Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse** on Wednesdays, Aug. 19 & 26, at 7:30 p.m., $10-$20. TommyTs.com. — *Rachel Swan*

The Farm

Shotgun Players set out to do the impossible by staging a hip-hop version of George Orwell's 1945 novel, *Animal Farm*. After all, the source material — which satirizes Joseph Stalin's regime in the Soviet Union — doesn't exactly lend itself to hip-hop-ification. Yet by restyling the characters and taking liberties with Orwell's language, director Jon Tracy managed to reconceive it while keeping the basic ideas intact. His anthropomorphic animals look like the type of [illegible], svelte revolutionaries you'd see at a current antiwar protest. The dictator-pig Napoleon (Chad Deverman) wears a set of oversize DJ earphones, while his lackey, Squealer (Reuben Oriel Rivera), runs around yelling into a megaphone. Old Major (Daniel Bruno), the Middle White boar credited with devising the animal rebellion, sits atop the stage banging on a drum set with a pair of mallets. This abbreviated version of Orwell's novel, called ***The Farm***, is a musical of sorts, albeit a high-concept one. The characters use highly choreographed dance numbers to help move the plot forward, and most of their [illegible] flow right into the action, rather than interrupting it. Not to mention that by incorporating drums and beatboxing, Shotgun manages to isolate a certain quality of Orwell's novel that might otherwise be lost: the percussiveness of the prose. Stalinism may be frozen in time, but apparently *Animal Farm* lives on. Through Sept. 13 at the Joley's **John Hinkel Park** (Southampton Ave. at Arlington Ave.), 4 p.m. $[illegible] suggested donation. ShotgunPlayers.org. — *R.S.*

Comedians Anjelah Johnson and [illegible]

Too Big to Fail

Now [illegible] and well entrenched as the Bay Area's leading producer of free, agit-prop plays, the San Francisco Mime Troupe is tackling ever-more-complex issues. Where in the past he poked fun at right-wing "family values" zealots and Iraq war profiteers, head writer Michael Gene Sullivan is now appropriating the language of stock brokers and economists. His new play, ***Too Big to Fail***, makes a parable of the global economic crisis. Set in a remote African village, it's the story of an ambitious but good-hearted man who falls prey to a credit lender. After his beloved goat gets repossessed, he sets off to fight the Wall Street demons who are trying to corrupt his village. Scored by Pat Moran (of Lord Loves a Working Man fame), *Too Big to Fail* tells the story of the current recession in the form of African folk tale. Once the villagers acquire "the magic of credit," they start buying cell phones with Beyoncé ringtones, Nintendo Wii, and mortgages on new huts, naively thinking they've benefited from the banks' largesse. From an audience vantage point it's easy to laugh and watch the situation unravel. It's less easy to forget that so many of us made the same mistake. At **Bay Area parks** through Sept. 27. Free. SFMT.org. — *R.S.*

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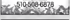
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We couldn't have done it without you! xoxo Marie

Souls of Mischief, Photo by Stephen Loewinsohn

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THEATER

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE, AGAIN

Patty Gallagher buoys a new Cal Shakes production of the Samuel Beckett play

By Rachel Swan

Kevin Berne

Patty Gallagher is terrific as Winnie: a flirty, self-pitying, misguidedly optimistic woman buried in a pile of dirt.

There's something primal about the set for Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*: A giant pile of dirt that consumes the entire stage in Cal Shakes' new production. Propped up by two-by-four base with flakeboard, the pile is cluttered with household objects — a doll, a set of wagon wheels, a rusted cheese grater, and an old-fashioned radio. It's the contents of a woman's life spilled out, and the woman, Winnie, is buried waist-deep within. She's left with a parasol and a black purse, from which she pulls several items: a toothbrush, a comb, medicine, a nail file, a magnifying glass, a tube of lipstick, a music box, and a gun. Each she handles each with incredible care: reading aloud the fine print on the toothbrush label, meticulously filing her nails and quaffing the medicine, pointing the gun at her head and then placing it lovingly on the earth beside her. Winnie calls out to her husband Willie, who remains offstage for most of the play but nonetheless seems omnipresent — a laconic, scruffy, drawling, snot-dripping, Vaseline-smearing, snarly haired, incorrigibly rude man with a huge gash running across his head. He's the only thing to keep Winnie from being alone in the wilderness.

Like many of Beckett's works, it's freighted with symbolism that could be interpreted several different ways. Obviously, *Happy Days* is a play about entrapment: Winnie cannot escape, just as Vladimir and Estragon couldn't escape in *Waiting for Godot*. In Winnie's case it's literal — the earth is packed around her and she can't move. She's stuck in a number of other ways, to boot: In an unhappy relationship, in a society that repressed women, in a world of eternal daylight (the alarm bell tells her when to wake and sleep), in a prison of denial. She chatters incessantly throughout the play — to whom, it's not exactly clear. Perhaps Beckett meant to break the fourth wall, though it's more likely that Winnie's just trying to busy herself.

Happy Days is quite a departure for California Shakespeare Theater and for director Jonathan Moscone, who seldom traffics in abstract material. Oft characterized as one of Beckett's more accessible plays, it's still full of equivocal language and lines repeated over and over again, with a slightly different meaning each time. The play has two actors and a fairly uneven division of labor: Willie has 54 words and several well-placed grunts; otherwise Winnie carries the play. Her monologue — really a series of non sequiturs — is incredibly difficult to memorize, and apparently the Beckett Estate mandates that it all be articulated verbatim. Thus, actress Patty Gallagher was saddled with a near impossible task when she took on the role two weeks ago as a last-minute substitute for Marsha Mason. UC Santa Cruz professor Gallagher had played the role before (she says she's currently learning Winnie's lines in Spanish for a South American director), but she still had to memorize ninety minutes' worth of intense, tortuous monologue, and inflect it with her own personality. Moreover, she had to figure out how to communicate largely through her face and eyes, since Winnie doesn't have the luxury of body language (in the play's second half she's buried up to her neck in dirt). Not to mention, the play requires her to use a broad vocal range without a microphone.

Despite the odds, Gallagher is terrific as Winnie. She captures Beckett's mordant sense of humor and his sense of absurdity in the quotidian. She makes light of her situation ("The earth is very tight today ... or can it be that I put on flesh?") and makes deeply philosophical — and painful — observations about her relationship with Willie. "I can only imagine what is passing through your mind," she taunts after Willie has surfaced, briefly, to read the newspaper and then retreated back into his hole. "It is not enough to listen to the woman. I must look at her as well." She makes Winnie seem flirty, self-pitying, misguidedly optimistic, and equipped with incredible will to survive.

Dan Hiatt also brings fantastic concentration to the role of Willie, which could just as easily be played for clownishness. For most of the first act he putters around offstage, audible but unobservable to the audience and to a jilted Winnie. When he does emerge, he keeps his back to the audience, carefully places a derby hat on his head and buries his nose in the newspaper. In the second act, Winnie doesn't know if he's there or not, and when he resurfaces — *dressed to kill*, according to the stage directions — he tries to scrabble up the dirt toward Winnie. He's reaching for something, but it's not clear what. The purse? The umbrella? The gun? Hiatt makes a fierce go of it as Gallagher eggs him on, in what turns out to be the play's tensest moment.

Happy Days was first published in 1961, and the time period it portrays is even earlier — probably a magical realist version of the 1930s. In the right hands, though, it can seem thoroughly contemporary. Cal Shakes' version succeeds in every aspect, from the acting, to the blocking (albeit minimal) to the enormous pile of dirt, to Gallagher's facial expressions, which add shape and emotional tenor to her words. It's no accident that her umbrella suddenly bursts into flames in the first act, and that, screaming, she tosses it at Willie. We are, after all, witnessing a marriage on the verge of annihilation — and a woman who seems utterly combustible. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Details
Happy Days runs through Sept. 6 at Bruns Amphitheater (100 Gateway Blvd., Orinda). 510-548 CalShakes.org

LECTURES & LIT

Now You See Him

Kevin Nadal strives to raise Filipino-American visibility

Onstage, **Kevin Nadal** sings and dances and performs perfectly timed riffs about his family, karaoke, being gay, and being Filipino American. Offstage, he's an assistant professor of psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, having earned his Ph.D from Columbia and conducted research into LGBT issues, Filipino-American issues, and "microaggressions," which he defines as "brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral, or environmental indignities ... toward members of oppressed groups."

Nadal's first one-man show, *Pinoy*, toured nationally for three years. His second, *Single*, toured nationally as well. Two years ago, Nadal premiered *Psychotherapy: A Cabaret Show*, in which he pondered relationships and sang tunes made famous by Whitney Houston and Britney Spears. He's a man with many careers, and he's engaging in all of them at once.

"Balancing the various aspects of my life has been a little hectic, but it is also very exciting," says the Fremont native, who was named one of *People* magazine's "hottest bachelors of 2006" and will be at the **Fremont Main Library** (2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont) on Monday, August 24. "Everything that I am involved in is something that I am passionate about."

Kevin Nadal

At the library, he will discuss his new book *Filipino American Psychology: A Handbook of Theory, Research, and Clinical Practice*. "I think that a lot of Filipino Americans are unaware of the health disparities that our community faces, in terms of physical health and mental health," Nadal says. "Filipino Americans have among the highest prevalence of obesity, cardiovascular disease, tobacco use, substance use, and diabetes out of all Asian-American groups, yet our community seems to be fairly unaware of these issues, and there are few outreach or prevention programs that address this."

His work, whether behind the microphone or behind the lectern, is never very far from his activism. During *Single*, he recited some lines that he says he wrote "during my angry college-student days, when I was 21." It's an indictment indeed. "You called me a monkey when I came to your country ... You spat on my brothers for courting your women. You beat on my sisters for not giving it up. You lynched and you killed and you never said sorry. ... You beat my brown ass and left me for dead." A key line in this passage is, "You can't tell me I'm invisible because I know I'm not alone." Onstage and off, Nadal is troubled by the specter of invisibility — in which Filipinos and their accomplishments are ignored among the general population and even among the "model minority" Asian American population.

"There are very few research studies that focus on Filipinos. ... There needs to be more research and literature written on all Asian American groups, and specifically Asian American groups that are often overlooked or ignored," Nadal explains. "But in order for that to happen, more Filipino Americans have to get their Ph.D. and/or to continue to fight to give voice to our community."

Too many Americans, he laments, "are unaware of the history and experiences of Filipino Americans in the US. Many don't realize that Filipinos were the first Asians to land in the US — they landed in 1587, which is thirty plus years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. People are also unaware that Filipino Americans are projected to become the largest Asian American population in the 2010 Census." If enough voices are raised, he says, "I hope that ... people will know that Filipino Americans are more than just hip-hop dancing, Imelda Marcos, or *lumpia*." 7 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org

— Anneli Rufus

LECTURES

The Employment Law Group Melrose Breakfast Books Lectures on managing the risk of wage and hour claims, conducting legal interviews, avoiding employment lawsuits, and navigating the leave laws. Continental breakfast provided. Thu., Aug. 20, 7:30 a.m.; Thu., Sept. 24, 7:30 a.m. $35 per program or $100 for all four. Dunham Brown Office, 1801 Harrison St., Oakland. 510-835-8715, Dunhambrown.com.

Info Session for Adult Programs Teaching Credentials and Professional Programs & Lecture and Technical Education Teaching Credential and Voc Ed Program Thu., Aug. 20, 5:30-7 p.m. free. UC Berkeley Extension, 1995 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-4111. Berkeley.edu.

LITERARY EVENTS

Albany Library Evening Book Group Brenda Gonzales facilitates this group, which features novels based on "the American experience." Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m. free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Albany Library Great Books Discussion Group Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 p.m. free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Autobiography and Memoir Book Discussion Group Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., no cost. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Bay Area Free Book Exchange Placing unwanted books into the people who want them. Saturdays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Book Exchange, 10527 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-1941.

Bob Stanley and Poet Al Young Featured readings by Robert B. Shelby, poet laureate of Benicia; Connie Post, former poet laureate of Livermore; Al Young, former poet laureate of the State of California; Mary Rudge, poet laureate of Alameda; Martha Meltzer, poet laureate of Pleasanton; Albert Flynn DeSilver, poet laureate of Marin County; Rod Clark, poet laureate of Piedmont; and Christina Hutchins, poet laureate of Albany. Fri., Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Dimond Branch Book Discussion Group A monthly literary circle for adults. Fourth Monday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Dimond Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

John Curl aka Gallerist Memoir Brunch Tue., Aug. 25, 7 p.m. free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Jonathan Trapper Discussing *This Is Where I Leave You*, Wed., Aug. 19, 7 p.m. free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Katie Hafner Discussing *A Romance on Three Legs*. Thu., Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Literary and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Kensington Library Book Club Fourth Monday of every month, 7 p.m. Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

Lev Grossman Discussing *The Magicians*. Thu., Aug. 20, 7 p.m. free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave. (Montclair Village), Oakland. 510-339-8210.

Melrose Branch Book Discussion Group Fourth Monday of every month, 6 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Melrose Branch, 4805 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-535-5623. OaklandLibrary.org.

Music of the World/La Palabra Musical "With Words" (M) Fourth and Second Sunday of every month, 3:30 p.m. free. Rebecca's Books, 3268 Adeline St., Berkeley.

Other Cities Discussing graphic artists. Thu., Aug. 20, 6:30 p.m. free. Pleasant Hill Library, 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. 925-646-6434.

Pocket Anonymous Club Fourth Sunday of every month, 1 p.m. free. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-7512. CCCLib.org.

Teen Slam Jam The Oakland Public Library, BUMP Records and Youth Speaks present an end-of-summer Teen Slam Jam featuring poetry slams by Youth Speaks and live music by young BUMP Records artists. Thu., Aug. 20, 6 p.m. free. Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland.

PICKS

Alonzo Addison

What do Pingala, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Machu Picchu, Angkor, the Great Barrier Reef, and London have in common? Unfortunately, they're all covered in **Alonzo Addison's** book *Disappearing World: 101 of the Earth's Most Extraordinary and Endangered Places*. A special advisor to UNESCO's director, Addison discusses his book at the **Kensington Library** (61 Arlington Ave., Kensington) on Thursday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m., free. CCCLib.org *—A.R.*

John Curl

Native American tribes, colonial workshops, 19th-century assembly lines, labor unions, and other such groups are praised as crucial social-justice catalysts in poet/biographer/translator/woodworker **John Curl's** new book, *For All The People: Uncovering the Hidden History of Cooperation, Cooperative Movements, and Communalism in America*. Meet the author at **Moe's** (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m., free. MoesBooks.com *—A.R.*

Nancy Thompson

Inspired by people she met who became a painter at age 74, **Nancy Thompson** began interviewing local seniors via the North Oakland Senior Center's Elder Circle Oral History Project. The result is a new book, *Pioneering Spirits: A Legacy of Courage*, which Thompson and some of the contributors will discuss at the **Oakland Main Library** (125 14th St., Oakland) on Saturday, Aug. 22, 1 p.m., free. OaklandLibrary.org *— Anneli Rufus*

Katie Hafner

When Glenn Gould sat down to play his Steinway CD 318, the brilliant but famously germophobic pianist felt something like love, according to former *New York Times* correspondent **Katie Hafner**, who discusses *A Romance on Three Legs*, her book about the eccentric Canadian and his favorite instrument, at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com *—A.R.*

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BODY&SOUL

Hip Stir

Belly Dance Day celebrates an ancient art.

Shabnam Shirvani

In Arabic, it's called *raqs sharqi*. Some say it began in Babylon, others in ancient Egypt or ancient Greece. Some say it was created to honor goddesses during fertility rites, others to strengthen the muscles used in childbirth. Too often dismissed as sheer entertainment by those who know nothing of its ritual roots, belly dance first appeared in the United States at the 1893 World's Fair. On Saturday, Aug. 22, the East Bay's own **Belly Dance Day** features a comprehensive series of workshops at **Shabnam Belly Dance Studio** (454 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., $20 each) culminating in an evening extravaganza and belly-dance-art exhibition at **Rhythmix Cultural Works** (2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 7 p.m., $15-$20). The event's coordinator is Shabnam Shirvani, a teacher and performer who has won the prestigious Belly Dancer of the Universe competition, among many others.

"After a work-related back injury," Shirvani remembers, "my physical therapist recommended I do belly dancing to strengthen my abdominal muscles." But after just one class she realized that this was much more than a mere health aid. Soon it became her profession; she was performing all over the world — "and my stomach muscles *did* become very strong."

She felt herself grow stronger in other ways as well. Shirvani credits belly dance with "giving me confidence, self-esteem, and a healthy body image. It is a dance form for women of all shapes, ages, and sizes. In addition to the physical benefits, due to it being a feminine dance form it emotionally helps you reconnect with your femininity and power as a woman.

"Your body becomes an instrument when you belly dance," she asserts. "You interpret music with your hips, hands, and facial expressions. ... You are not only interpreting the dance with technical movements, but with who you are as a person. I tell all my girls" — that is, her students — "that if you want to be a great belly dancer, you not only have to dance well, you also need to be a generous person and have a good soul. Everything is very transparent in this dance. The soul doesn't lie."

The belly dance style she favors "is very abdominal-based, which benefits posture and back problems. It helped me lose all my postpartum weight within three months" — and, during her pregnancy itself, "I didn't have any back pain or pregnancy waddle even in my ninth month. Undulations in particular are great for women's health and organs and can help with fertility," as the ancients knew all too well. "It has become a running joke at my studio," Shirvani laughs. "Don't come to class unless you want to become pregnant."

The signature belly-dance move, the *shimmy*, is powered by rapid motions of the knees, thighs, or buttocks, depending on the dancer and the style. Along with the deft manipulation of finger-cymbals known as *zills*, shimmying is one of many techniques to be taught on Belly Dance Day. Classes scheduled throughout the morning and afternoon will focus on undulations, hip work, footwork, and stage makeup. While a belly dancer's appearance is a key part of any performance, what's inside matters just as much as what's outside, Shirvani says.

"In my opinion, a dancer who performs without emotion or feeling is not an artist," says Shirvani, who is determined to shatter belly dancing's image as "a jiggle dance, stripping, or just something you watch at a restaurant while eating couscous." BellyDanceDay.com

— Anneli Rufus

PERSONAL GROWTH

Celebrate Recovery A weekly meeting to discuss life-changing principles. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Creekside Community Church, 953 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro. 510-430-9807. CreeksideCommunity.org.

Chemical Dependency Workshops A weekly workshop for users, friends of users, parents of users, and children of users. Topics rotate weekly. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon, free. Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Health Education Center, 3100 [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-655-4000.

Food for Thought Readings by Berkeley psychic Jessica [illegible]. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m., $15. Gravity Feed Gallery, 1958 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4404.

Lunchtime Dreaming David Jenkins, Ph.D., facilitates this weekly discussion group, for which no experience is necessary. Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. $10. Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. www.bfuu.org.

Mandana Community Recovery Center Friday Night Meditation Meditation history, posture and breath techniques, private exploration, and different styles of meditation. Fridays, 8-9 p.m., free for Mandana CRC members, $2 for nonmembers. Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3000 Howe St., Oakland. 510-595-9080.

Mandana Community Recovery Center Tuesday Education Presentation A selected holistic or spiritual topic that can help with addiction recovery is presented each week. Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free for Mandana CRC members, $3 for nonmembers. Mandana Community Recovery Center, 3000 Howe St., Berkeley. 510-595-9080.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Adventures in Jewish Learning Multi-Pinnacle day lecture series. Thursdays, 10-11:15 a.m., $17, $180 for a 25-lecture series. Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave., San Leandro. 510-357-8505. templebethsholom.org.

Bible Curriculum Tuesday Nights Courses open to everyone, but highly recommended for those interested in membership. [illegible] in the church. An evening potluck dinner at 6 p.m. will precede worship (7 p.m.) and programs (7:30 p.m.). Call for schedule. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

LBBF Meditation Group [illegible] meditation practice. [illegible] Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m., free. East Bay Meditation Center, 2147 Broadway Ave., Oakland. 510-268-9096. EastBayMeditation.org.

Meditation, Dharma Talk and Beginner's Night Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m., free. Empty Gate Zen Center, 2200 Parker St., Berkeley. 510-845-8565.

Personal Theology Sundays Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m., free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. UUCB.org.

Worship Pastor Dr. John [illegible] leads a weekly service at a multi-ethnic church where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord. Sundays, 9 a.m. 510-[illegible]. Agape Bible Fellowship, 2000 [illegible] St., San Pablo. 510-230-8647. AgapeBFM.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

[illegible] Yoga Taught by Max Miller, a 'hatch-brand' yoga teacher with a 200-hour certification in Hatha. Miller wishes to create a safe space for those in the community ... provide yoga. Mondays, Thursdays, 8-9 p.m. $8-$12 [illegible], no one turned away for lack of funds. 510-547-6447. UrbanForage.com. Studio Naga, 5850 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-652-0242. StudioNaga.com.

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and staying. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m., $10-$25. InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-2797. InterPlay.org.

Meditation Kundalini Yoga Thursdays, 12:05 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30, free. Wilbur Shack Conference Room, Sproul Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Tai Chi, [illegible] and Qigong With Jeffrey Kessler. Thursdays, 5 p.m., $55-$70 per month. Chestnut Hall, 2215 Prince St., Berkeley. 510-704-0087. Chestnut.org.

Yoga for Kids Two workshops led by Rebecca Bodie Smith. Thursdays, 3:30 & 4:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 26. $45 per month. Hot Body Fitness Studio, 645 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro. HotBody-Fitness.com. ■

PICKS

Richard Rohr

[illegible] New Mexico hermit age and devoted to spreading the gospel as it relates to male spirituality, peace and justice, and the enneagram, Franciscan priest **Richard Rohr** is the author of many books including *Soul Brothers*, *Good News According to Luke*, and *Radical Grace*. He talks about eco-spirituality at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** (114 Montecito Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, Aug. 20, 7 p.m., $10-$20 sliding scale. PaxtonBean.org *— Anneli Rufus*

King Tut Festival

Ha[illegible] painted in henna, snap souvenir pictures of [illegible] pals wearing pharaonic garb. Experience the art, food, and culture of Ancient Egypt at the 17th annual **King Tut Festival at St. Antonius Coptic Orthodox Church** (1590 Hansen Rd., Hayward). Demonstrations, entertainment, and activities for all ages evoke the realm of Osiris. Friday, Aug. 21 (5 p.m.-10 p.m.), Saturday, Aug. 22 (10 a.m.-10 p.m.), and Sunday, Aug. 23 (noon-6 p.m.). KingTutFestival.com *— A.R.*

Tibetan Yoga Workshop

Based [illegible] put forward by Lamas aiming to improve their health and increase their life spans, Tibetan yoga combines meditation, breath control, and positive thinking. Long veiled in secrecy, the practice is now making its way to the West. At the **Nyingma Institute** (1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley) on Saturday, Aug. 22, **Tibetan Yoga** instructor Santosh Philip leads an all-day **workshop**. 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m. $80 (includes lunch). NyingmaInstitute.com *— A.R.*

Viktoras Kulvinskas

Viktoras Kulvinskas.

Jennifer Geisel

A raw food scholar and former Harvard University computer consultant, Lithuanian-born **Viktoras Kulvinskas** is also a holistic-health pioneer, Essene Church of Christ bishop, Senior Double Diamond Super Blue Green Algae distributor and cofounder of the Hippocrates Health Institute. At **Kaia Foods** (2525 Adeline St., Emeryville) on Wednesday, Aug. 26, he discusses his work and offers superfood infusion samples. 6:30 p.m., $25. KaiaFoods.com *— A.R.*

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AQUARIUM AGE

AGGRAVATION AND AGGRESSION

For the week of August 19-25, 2009

By Raffee Finn

We are certainly in the thick of it four weeks away from the third exact contact of the ongoing Saturn/Uranus opposition and it feels as if its "gravitational" pull has the power as well as the volatility of the San Andreas fault. Expect earthquakes of all proportion from the political to the personal to erupt all over the map of daily life. Some of these quakes are driven by enough volcanic force to drive apart what already feels hopelessly divided. And it's not just the ongoing hostility over health-care reform that isn't really about health-care reform. People are anxious and agitated about what lies ahead, and in the maelstrom of that uncertainty, conspiracy theories are clouding reason and exacerbating the already divisive air. For many, it feels like there is no safe place to wait out the storm. And from an astrological perspective, that may be true — we have several weeks ahead of increasing intensity. But that doesn't make it impossible to establish and hold on to a peaceful position. Continue to refuse to engage in harmful activity of any kind and you'll continue to help neutralize these pernicious astral winds.

The third exact contact and the midpoint of a series of five Saturn/Uranus oppositions occurs on September 15, which means that for the next several weeks we're in the undertow of this configuration. Oppositions translate into tension. Saturn represents the status quo, Uranus, the inexorable process of change. This entire bundle is about an onslaught of challenges to existing structures and systems of organization, collective and individual. We have been in this Saturn/Uranus zone since last September, and a contributing factor to the current histrionics is the aggregation of frustration over what's changing, who's in charge, and just how fast the changes are or aren't taking place.

Unfortunately, as the Saturn/Uranus opposition tightens its grip, Mars continues to be at the epicenter of strife, a position that translates into irritation, aggravation, and aggression. Not so much because Mars only wants to fight but because its interactions with Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto are fractious — and that's putting it mildly. This week, Mars continues to square Uranus as it simultaneously moves into an opposition with Pluto. A Mars/Uranus square signifies large amounts of energy that can be applied to a specific purpose, but it will take spiritual skill and consciousness to spend this energy wisely.

The Mars/Pluto opposition encourages despots, feeds the need to seize control at any cost, and justifies ruthlessness as a means to an end. Do your best not to be reactionary. Remember, the means never justify the ends. The means are the ends, which is why violence never really changes anything and the revolutionary ultimately becomes the despot. Mars/Pluto contacts do support superhuman effort. And that's just what's need for the next several weeks: the superhuman effort to stay conscious in thought, word, and deed. And even if it feels impossible, be kind and compassionate toward yourself as well as your fellow travelers.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that too.

ARIES At first glance, the situation appears to be a conflict between your professional and personal responsibilities. But a closer look reveals the potential for a positive solution that merges these seemingly disparate obligations.

TAURUS Trust your own good intentions, speak from your heart, and you'll find a way to diffuse confrontations. Not every word will be a magic wand, but that doesn't matter because your authenticity will work wonders.

GEMINI A one-day-at-a-time approach will bolster your sense of accomplishment. So at the risk of offering up a platter of platitudes, keep it simple, stay positive, be direct, and allow the situation to unfold. You could be pleasantly surprised.

CANCER It won't be easy holding back your opinions, so rather than waste precious energy attempting the impossible, try to filter your responses through a positive perspective. If you're clear about your priorities, others will support your efforts.

LEO Pay attention to your dreams, waking or sleeping, and allow your unconscious to deliver important messages. Listen carefully and you'll discover new solutions to old, persistent problems that will move you into a dynamic, positive flow.

VIRGO Keep a negative situation from escalating by establishing clear yet reasonable boundaries. You may have to agree to disagree, but even that compromise will yield beneficial results in the long run.

LIBRA Allow your imagination to inspire innovation, especially when it comes to career strategies. Even if some ideas seem silly or unrealistic, the simple willingness to explore their potential will stimulate your process.

SCORPIO The best way to transform the tension is to move away from a rigid, militant position toward a more flexible point of view. I'm not suggesting you capitulate. I'm advising you to find the fertile ground of compromise.

SAGITTARIUS If you accentuate the positive you really will eliminate the negative. And while this may sound simple and trite, it will take a determined, concentrated effort to hold steady to a good attitude.

CAPRICORN Significant others, personal and professional, are the source of the problem as well as the solution. Polarize, and you'll engender competition and confrontation. Synthesize and you'll generate positive results.

AQUARIUS Whistle while you work, and you'll diffuse internal tension that could lead to external battles. This is not about agreeing to unfair terms or denying your needs. It's about staying centered and allowing that strength to guide your choices.

PISCES You can make it through these waves, especially if you avoid getting swept away by the needs of others and instead stay absolutely clear about your priorities. Be empathetic, but also be kind to yourself first. ●

For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9204 or write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com or e-mail Raffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Raffee Finn

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RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly, as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10-$25. $$$—$25-$50. $$$$—more than $50.

RICHMOND & NORTH

Best Burritos [illegible] San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $
El Cholano 3368 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante. 510-222-[illegible] (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$
[illegible] Chinese Restaurant 3288A Pierce St., in the Pacific East Mall, Richmond. 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$
The Gala Fish 2095D San Pablo Ave., Crockett. 510-787-3323. (Dimsum/Seafood) $$$-$$$$
Hilltop City Cafe 320 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine) $$
Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond. 510-233-0576. (American) $$$
The Outlet 235 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito. 510-524-4827. (Deli/German/Austrian) $
[illegible] 3800 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante. 510-223-8015. (Central American) $
Kabana-Ya Sushi 10544-10546 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Kinley's Chicken Place 3000 San Pablo Ave., Suite E, Berkeley. 510-724-2302. (Barbecue/Deli) $
Kwang Thai 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-237-8005. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Little Angel 6115 Pierce Ave., El Cerrito. 510-232-8879. (Steak House) $$-$$$
Pho Hoa Thai 12000 San Pablo Ave., Richmond. 510-235-1223. (Vietnamese) $-$$
Pablo Garibaldi 250 23rd St., Richmond. 510-234-8952. (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$
Pizza Gourmet Delivery only. El Cerrito. 510-236-[illegible] (Italian/Pizza) $$
Ristorante Due Amici 1596 Fitzgerald Dr., Pinole. 510-223-5720. (Italian) $$
Taqueria La Selena 12349 San Pablo Ave., Richmond. 510-235-2283. (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $
Yuet Foo Shiftuck Restaurant 12350 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-536-0847. (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-526-8185. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Bali 1647 Solano Ave., Berkeley. (510) 528-8878. (Vietnamese) $$
Cafe Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-524-5667. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
Café St. Honore [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-[illegible] (French) $
Cafe Ine 1385 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-526-8008. (Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
The Cape Inn 1198 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-528-3388. (Seafood) $$
Fiesta/Mexico 1339 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-525-0285. (Chinese) $-$$
Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8185. (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$
Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-559-9006. (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$
The Hot Shop 309 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-9011. (Mexican) $
Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-6054. (Bakery/California Cuisine/Desserts/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Kaffeemuhle 1410 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-[illegible] (Coffee) $$
Kensington Circus Pub 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington. 510-524-8814. (English/Pub) $$
Kula 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-524-9877. (Chinese) $$
Laiko 1320 Gilman St., Albany. 510-527-6838, 510-558-7000 (office). (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Meal Ticket 1235 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-6325. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Nizza La Bella 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-2552. (French/Italian) $$$
Pearl Meridian 1358 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-525-1350. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
Rendezvous 1111 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-527-4015. (French) $$
Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-526-2542. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Rose Pair 1045 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-2378. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Shayam Gourmet 1002 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-526-8282. (Deli/Middle Eastern) $
Sizz & Log Cabin 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-558-0494. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Stik Do Boca 1137 Solano Ave., Albany. 510-526-0083. (Korean) $$
Taqueria Gourmet 1587 Solano Ave., Pinole. [illegible] 510-558-8665. (Mexican) $
Thai-Kitchen 577 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-525-7080. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Venezia's Bistro 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-8300. (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $-$$

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BERKELEY NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2827. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Cafe Gratitude 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 415-824-4652. (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Casa Latina 1805 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-558-7177. (Bakery/Mexican) $
Cafe & Mexican Restaurant 1848 Euclid Ave., Pinole. 510-581-1400. (Mexican) $-$$
Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-1213. (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-3055. (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
Cafe Fanny/Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5525 downstairs, 510-548-5049 cafe. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$
Restaurant Di Vino 1801 Grove Ave., Suite C, Berkeley. 510-[illegible] (Desserts/Ice Cream/Italian/Wine Bar) $$
Picante 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8004. (Italian) $$$
Da Lian 1678 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-1888. (Chinese/Desserts/Ice Cream) $
Flacos Gate Street at Shattuck Avenue (North Berkeley Farmers' Market), Berkeley. (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley. 510-528-4692. (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
Gregoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-883-1893. (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Guerilla Cafe 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2233. (Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $
Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-8888. (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Pizzeria Toppings 1911 B Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible] (Pizza) $
Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-3354. (Deli/Kosher/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Top Dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-1241. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Amanda's 2122 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2122. (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers' Market, Center St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Bongkob's Louisiana Kitchen 2301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8900. (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Azerbaijan Restaurant 2071 Pierce Way, Berkeley. 510-704-1218. (Middle Eastern) $$
Bangkok Thai Kitchen 1498 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-5483. (Thai/Burmese) $
Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. (American/English/Irish/Pub) $$
Bison Lounge 2121 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-3700. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican/Pizza/Wine Bar) $$
Biryani Pizzeria 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5300. (Indian/Pakistani) $
Bistro Liaison 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2155. (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
Bobby G's Pizzeria 2072 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-8866. (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $-$$
Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5888. (Tibetan) $-$$
La Rotonde 2154 Center St., Berkeley. 510-704-8888. (Mexican) $
Middle-E-Pan's 1920 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-8892. (Middle Eastern) $
Downtown Bar and Restaurant 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$
Ell Ming Deli 2131 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible] (Deli) $
Eve 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-225-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Flacos Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way (Downtown Berkeley Farmers' Market), Berkeley. (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Grab N Go 2116 Pierce Way, Berkeley. 510-540-5287. (Deli) $
Henry's 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-4620. (California Cuisine) $$
Herbivore 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-1675. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$
Delicatessen Dunant 2200 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible] (Jewish/Deli) $
Jayakarta 2026 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0824. (Southeast Asian) $-$$
Lalime 2144 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8211. (Brewpub/Pizza) $$
Long Life Vegi House 2129 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6072. (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Lenny's Smokehouse 2190 Shattuck Way, Berkeley. 510-649-8528. (Barbecue) $-$$
The Mayflower 2130 University Ave., Pinole. 510-883-1818. (Chinese) $
Oasis International Sports Cafe 2050 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-1410. (American/Brewpub) $$
The Mint Leaf 1513 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-7897. (Indian/Pakistani) $$
La Note 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-1535. (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $$-$$$
Freight 1820 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2156. (American/Diner) $
Plain & Thai House 2023 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1886. (Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Pupusas 2042 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8326. (Central American) $-$$

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Renee Gourmet

510-[illegible]. Aiming to bring back traditional meals such as those enjoyed in the El Cerrito home they share with their two sons, Renee Thomas Jacobs and Caroline Thomas-Jacobs operate a neat family-run frozen-pizza/macaroni/lasagna-delivery business, using wholesome ingredients purchased at respectable local institutions such as Country Cheese and Magnani. Renee cooks, handmaking each thin-crust pizza, and Caroline delivers. Of eight standard combinations, half are meatless; custom pizzas with your choice of toppings are also available with advance notice. Scarborough Fare features parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme with part-low-fat mozzarella, Gruyère, house-made tomato sauce, and pine nuts. The cheesy, saucy Kiss Me pizza is topped with fresh garlic and sweet caramelized onion to create a smoky, tangy taste. Upon delivery, Renee's pizzas can be popped into the oven for ten minutes and eaten at once. But they're also willing to wait patiently in your freezer, vacuum packed. Convenience is everything. $$

Five

2086 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-225-6055. Chef Scott Howard spins fresh, vibrant flavors out of classic American dishes at the Hotel Shattuck Plaza's fantastically appointed new restaurant. Local, organic, absolutely fresh ingredients star in dishes like roasted oysters with spinach and brandy; crisply fried squash blossoms stuffed with goat cheese; lamb loin wrapped in chives, spinach, and panko crumbs; and a lush butterscotch pudding studded with crunchy peanut brittle. Imaginative wine and cocktail list. $$$

Cafe St. Honore

842 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-898-1318. The little tables in this cheery French-style cafe are decoupaged with French postcards, cartoons, and maps, and French music lilts through the speakers. Try café au lait, merguez quiche, stuffed brioche, French onion soup, salads, classic sandwiches such as the croque-monsieur and whimsical ones such as the chien chaud, which is a hot dog swathed in Gruyère cheese and béchamel sauce. For sale on shelves along the fleur-de-lis-flecked walls are bags of lavender, jars of Maille mustard, cans of Clement Faugier chestnut spread, and also boxes of butter cookies from Normandy's Biscuiterie de l'Abbaye. Desserts are a specialty. Try the ice cream, custardy coconut macaroons, or buttery gâteau Basque: its lemon cream so sweet and thick and almond-blasted you want to scream, then you find whole sour cherries buried in its yellow-velvet depths and want — because you know you shouldn't eat this every day — to die. $

Adesso

4395 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0305. This Piedmont Avenue hotspot is famous for its three dozen varieties of house-cured, uniquely spiced salumi, but there's more to the place than sbriciolona with thyme and prosecco: pâté made of pigeon, rabbit, and duck; panini and piadine (Italian flatbread) stuffed with everything from soft-shell crab to mozzarella di bufala; unique antipasti like raw tuna and roasted tomato on rounds of chick-pea polenta. Get the Sicilian lemon honey gelato for dessert. Dazzling all-Italian wine list, inventive house cocktails (try the totally peachy Pesca). The 5-7 p.m. happy hour is the very definition of abundance. $$$

Lake Anza Beach Club

At Lake Anza in Tilden Park, 510-843-2137. This is the latter-day snack bar of a [illegible] Food Network world. Festooned with blow-up beach gear, Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head toys, and vintage outdoor photographs, Lake Anza Beach Club stands mere blocks from the Gourmet Ghetto, albeit vertical blocks. So from its two takeout-only windows — one inside the lake's paid zone and the other outside, adjoining the parking lot — come chili, sandwiches, and coffee drinks using locally sourced and as many more sustainably grown ingredients. Also here are snack-bar standards such as nachos, hot dogs, and soft ice cream. Head honchos are Daniel Bergerac and Eddie Landeen, who created Point Isabel's popular Mudpuppy's Tub & Scrub and Sit and Stay Cafe. $

La Furia Chalaca

310 Broadway (at Third St.), Oakland, 510-451-4206. Classic dishes from Peru's mountains and coastlines are authentically prepared and artistically presented at this Jack London Square destination. Causa (puréed potatoes filled with spicy chicken) makes an excellent starter; the house ceviche is bright, lush, and unpeeeably fresh; seco de cabrito (braised goat) is a rich, hearty, satisfying meal. Sipping options include a potent Pisco Sour, the refreshing chicha morada purple-corn punch, and an impressive Peru-centric wine list. Lovely array of pre-Columbian pottery. $$$

[illegible] 1973 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-2148 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Pomegranate 1585 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-5567 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$
[illegible] 2068 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $
Raw Energy 2050 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-665-9464 (Organic/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Razan's Organic Kitchen 2119 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-0449 (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
San Francisco Soup [illegible] 2512 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-7867 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] Kitchen 2550 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2528 (Indian/Pakistani) $
Taste of the Himalayas 1700 Shattuck Ave. Suite A, Berkeley, 510-849-4663 (Indian/Pakistani) $$
Thai Delight Cuisine 1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0611 (Organic/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Top Dog 2160 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-0176 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe 2486-2488 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8300 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Turkish Kitchen 1986 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-0697 (Middle Eastern) $$
Venus 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5950 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$
Zabu Zabu 1919 Addison St. #108, Berkeley, 510-848-9239 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$
Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

Anchalee 1094-1096 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-848-4015 (Thai/Burmese) $$
Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Brennan's Restaurant 700 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0960 (American) $
Bucci's 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Cafe [illegible] 914 Heinz Ave. (at Seventh St.), Berkeley, 510-843-0000 (Italian/California Cuisine/Gelato/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5451 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Cafe M 1799 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4420 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
Caffe Venezia 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-4681 (Italian) $$$
[illegible] Poblano 1320 65th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0482 (Mexican) $$
Digs Bistro 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-2322 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Doyle Street Cafe 5499 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-2632 (Breakfast/Brunch/Bakery) $
[illegible] 1722 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0200 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8261 (Barbecue) $$
[illegible] 1400 University Ave., Berkeley, (510) 841-5285 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
[illegible] 1650 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-8465 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
IKEA 4400 Shellmound St., Emeryville, 510-420-4532 (Scandinavian) $
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We'll have wine, cheese, oysters, Pizzaiolo's famous pizzas, and live music on the back patio... and that's just before dinner starts! Dinner will be hosted in conjunction with the upcoming Eat Real Festival and will feature a three-course family-style Italian meal prepared by Pizzaiolo Chef & Owner Charlie Hallowell.

Come savor the flavor and the company while supporting CAFF's work to build a sustainable food system in our region. For more information and to reserve your seat visit www.eatrealfest.com/keepingitrealdinner

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WINEAU

Cheap Wine and Pregnancy

Many couples owe their start to a bottle of bargain wine. But what about their children?

Is there a correlation between cheap wine and pregnancy? Wineaux may wonder after discovering that our intrepid wine columnist went and got pregnant. Wine loosens inhibitions, of course, and anything can happen once you've done that. But as an occasional member of this column's tasting panel, I can attest that our Wineau-in-chief does indeed spit out much of what she sips. So I'm inclined to think there's no relationship between her impending childbirth and her love of cheap wine.

Still, in the spirit of empiricism that characterizes this column, I assembled a tasting panel of nine childless Wineaux and two Token Fathers — five women and six men. We sampled five bottles of ultra-cheap imported Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. A few were bargains, but several were of a quality that self-respecting Wineaux would avoid unless desperate to become parents.

First up was the generally unpopular **2005 McGuigan Shiraz ($3.99)** from Australia's Limestone Coast. Token Father #1 thought it tasted like expired grapefruit — but he's got six kids, and doesn't need any more. Ellen said it wasn't sweet enough, but conceded that she has immature tastes. Ellis D. said it was flat, tart, floral, and packed a "SNEAK ATTACK."

Several of us liked the **2006 Kelly's Revenge Shiraz ($2.99)** from Southeast Australia. My better half thought it was a spicy, full-bodied sipping wine, and happily I agreed, since we're committed to exploring the life-long relationship between wine and pregnancy (none so far). Ellis said it was as nice as your buddy's grandma. But Sue thought it tasted like tree bark, and Sam thought it was burnt and gross.

There was unanimity on the **2005 Withington Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon blend ($4.99)** from South Africa. Panelists compared it to gasoline and salad dressing and said it tasted like a dusty attic. The kindest comment came from Eyelash Caliban, who detected "hints of Christmas spices and paprika," but called that less a good sign than it might sound.

The **2004 Au Cabernet Sauvignon ($2.99)** from Koonawarra in Australia didn't fare much better. I thought it was tart and yucky, and Arkie Editor thought it tasted dirty. Token Father #2 said it was bitter. Ellis D. thought it started well but became increasingly nauseating with each passing sip.

Another Southeast Australian Shiraz, the **2005 Banrock Station Shiraz ($2.99)**, was the other winner with some members of our panel. Sue detected hints of plum, and Arkie Editor and I thought it was smooth and drinkable. And while Eyelash compared it to snake Gummi Bears, Ellis said he could drink it all day long.

But a lot can happen after a full day of wine drinking. If any unplanned pregnancies result, I'll share the news.

— *Stephen Buel*

Wineau is preggers. She expects to return in the fall.

R&C

Ave., Berkeley 510-704-4290. (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $
[illegible] 2957 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-[illegible]. (Caribbean) $
Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435. (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley 510-845-6904. (Mexican) $ $$
[illegible] 1106 University Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3895. (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
KC's Bar-B-Que 3013 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-547-[illegible]. (Barbecue) $-$$
Lois the Pie Queen 851 [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-658-5606. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
[illegible] 2309 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-4776. (Mexican/Salvadoran) $
Miyuki 1547 40th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0341. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
O Chamé 1830 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-841-8783. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Picante 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-3121. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 800 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7487. (Bakery/Organic/Seafood) $-$$
Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville 510-594-1221. (American/Diner) $-$$
[illegible]'s 3077 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0238. (Southern/Soul Food) $$
[illegible] Bagels and Deli 500 University Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Deli/Sandwiches) $
Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr. (on Berkeley Marina), Berkeley, 510-549-1900. (American/Seafood) $$
Sketch 1809A Fourth St., Berkeley 510-665-5650. (Desserts/Ice Cream) $
Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-845-7771. (Seafood) $$$
Tacubaya 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-525-5160. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$
Tofu Yu 2009 Ninth St., Berkeley 510-[illegible]. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville 510-652-6151. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Vik's 726 Allston Way, Berkeley 510-644-4412. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market (Derby St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley, 510-548-3333. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Breads of India 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-7684. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
[illegible] Valparaiso 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-[illegible]. (South American) $$
La [illegible] 2[illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Mexican) $
[illegible] 2748 [illegible] St., Berkeley 510-548-0421. (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Finfine 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-883-0367. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$
[illegible] Derby Street @ Martin Luther King Jr. Way, South Berkeley Farmers' Market, Berkeley. (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley 510-665-1672. (Middle Eastern) $
[illegible] Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-843-1940. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Thai) $
[illegible] 2[illegible] Ward St., Berkeley 510-549-3486. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] 2927 College Ave., Berkeley 510-848-2614. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
[illegible] Indian Cuisine 3440 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-841-6116. (Indian/Pakistani) $
Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd. (Claremont Resort and Spa), Berkeley, 510-549-8585. (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
[illegible] 2914 College Ave., Berkeley 510-883-1710. (Chinese) $-$$
Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3640. (American) $
Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 2508 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8958. (Asian Fusion/Chinese/Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$
[illegible] 3320 [illegible] St., Berkeley 510-595-9600. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $ $$
[illegible] 1915 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-849-3838. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland 510-655-6469. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland 510-601-0444. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
[illegible] of India 3711 College Ave., Oakland 510-658-[illegible]. (Indian/Pakistani) $$
[illegible] 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-6000. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
Lake Anza Resort Cafe/[illegible] Canyon and [illegible] Park House (in Tilden Park), Berkeley, 510-843-2137. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Tea/Desserts/Ice Cream) $
[illegible] 5331 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-8388. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $-$$$
[illegible] 6048 College Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible]. (Southeast Asian) $$
[illegible] 6068 Claremont Ave., Oakland 510-595-9888. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$
[illegible] 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356. (Pizza/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
[illegible] 5427 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1010. (Italian/Pizza) $ $$
[illegible] Bar-Be-Que 3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-350-8131. (American/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/Southern/Soul Food) $$
[illegible] 5471 College Ave., Oakland 510-655-[illegible]. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Somerset 5912 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-1833. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$
Top Dog 5190 Broadway (inside Longs Drugs), Oakland, 510-601-1187. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-7753. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland, 415-412-6180. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Aunt Mary's Cafe 4307 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-9227. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$
Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7999. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Casserole House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]-6001. (Korean) $
Dan Sung Sa 4316 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-[illegible]. (Korean) $$
Doña Tomás 5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522. (Mexican) $$$
[illegible] 3[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Korean) $$
Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbeque 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007. (Korean) $$
Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $
Marc 49 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2180. (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$
The [illegible] 4[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-655-[illegible]. (California Cuisine) $$
Nomad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $
[illegible] 4[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-[illegible]. (Korean) $ $$
Pyung Chang Tofu House 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-9040. (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$
[illegible] Seafood 4[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $
[illegible] 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3388. (Korean) $-$$
[illegible] 3801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-597-9900. (Korean) $
[illegible] Pie & Poppy's Authentic Southern Cuisine 5319 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 53rd St.), Oakland, 510-547-8743. (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Tanjia 4905 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8691. (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] 4305 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0906. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Italian/Wine Bar) $$$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers Market, Oakland, 415-412-6180. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-655-7180. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
[illegible] 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. (Breakfast/Brunch/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$
Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088. (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Camino 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5035. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
[illegible] 4000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-883-0222. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
[illegible] 4126 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-1004. (French) $$
[illegible] 532 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-7866. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
[illegible] 3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
[illegible] 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3670. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $ $$
Holy Land 677 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $
Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-7658. (Korean) $$
[illegible] 3909 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Spanish) $$
LoCoco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6222. (Italian/Pizza) $$
[illegible] 3417 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2500. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
[illegible] Sushi 2[illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]-8454. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Prima Spot Bar & Grill 3417 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]. (Steak House) $$$
[illegible] 5[illegible] Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6580. (American) $$-$$$
[illegible] 3[illegible]5 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-7736. (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$
[illegible] 3[illegible] Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2444. (Caribbean) $$
Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-3535. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$
Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

[illegible] 875 14th St., Oakland, 510-251-2755. (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
Battambang Restaurant 850 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-8815. (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $ $$
La Borinqueña Mexicatessen 582 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-444-9954. (Mexican) $-$$
[illegible] of India 948 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7684. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
[illegible] 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-839-7463. (Southern/Soul Food) $$
Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965. (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

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Caffè Bastone 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of [illegible] Building, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] Deli [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-444-8680 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chef Edwards' Bar-B-Que 1019 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-9516 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Chef Lau's 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3288 (Chinese/Seafood) $

Le Cheval 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-8495 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$

Cock-A-Doodle Café 719 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Café/Coffeehouse/[illegible]/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 337 8th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] Barbeque 125 Broadway, [illegible], 510-[illegible] (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 3900 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

[illegible] 310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Peruvian/South American) $$

Golden Lotus 1301 Franklin St., [illegible], 510-893-[illegible] (Chinese/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 388 9th St. (Pacific Renaissance Plaza), 1st Floor, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] 444 [illegible], 510-[illegible] (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

[illegible] 361 15th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

Jade Villa 800 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-1688 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 801 Washington St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Cajun/Creole/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 2432 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (African) $$

Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 824 Washington St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171 (Caribbean) $$$

[illegible] 2440 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5901 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Seafood) $$$

[illegible] 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Pizzaiolo? **[illegible]** 2210 Broadway, Oakland, 510-834-[illegible] (American/Barbecue/Cajun/Creole/California Cuisine/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] 174 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-835-8715 (Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 388 9th St., Suite 288, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 470 15th St., Oakland, 510-444-8421 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 1309 Clay St., [illegible], 510-763-[illegible] (Southeast/Burgers/Vegetarian/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 228 10th St., [illegible], 510-839-2799 (Chinese) $-$$

Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., [illegible], 510-465-6878 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 2501 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (European/German) $$

Spice Monkey 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 388 9th St., Oakland, 510-839-1529 (Chinese) $

[illegible] 1448 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 490 14th St., Suite 11, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 108 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-[illegible] (Seafood) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Center Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Webster St., [illegible], 510-839-2[illegible] (Chinese) $

ALAMEDA

[illegible] 1544 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-523-2270 (Italian) $$$

Angel Fish [illegible] [illegible] St., Suite G2, Alameda, 510-748-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] 2508 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4100 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] 2317 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-8482 (California Cuisine) $$$

Dip's Trailer? **[illegible]** 3318 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Diner) $

[illegible] 2364 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $-$$

[illegible] 1505 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-[illegible] (Cuban) $$

The [illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 3218 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

The New Zealander 1916 Webster St., Alameda, 510-769-8555 (Breakfast/English/Irish/New Zealander/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 1601 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 2412 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Deli) $

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300 (German/Austrian) $$

[illegible] 1650 Park St. (at the Park Street Marketplace), Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-7848 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-522-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/Chinese/Eclectic/Exotic/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-EAST

[illegible] Restaurant 2731 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-6785 (Mexican) $

Los [illegible] 1440 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Central American/Salvadoran) $

La Costa Alameda? **[illegible]** 3805 International Blvd., [illegible], 510-533-[illegible] (Mexican) $

El [illegible] 4506 International Blvd., [illegible], 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 2070 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, (510) 533-[illegible] (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 3719 MacArthur Blvd., [illegible], 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

El [illegible] 3840 International Blvd., [illegible], 510-533-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] 1228 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-836-8488 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

La Estrellita Café 446 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-7188 (American/Mexican) $$

[illegible] 3340 #2 E. 12th St. (in the Fremont Plaza Center), Oakland, 510-533-6796 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 2700 Livingston St., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Breakfast/Brunch) $

El Ojo de Agua 3132 E. 12th St., Oakland, (Mexican) $

[illegible] 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $-$$

Pho Ao Sen 200 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Pho Hoa Lao 120 International Blvd., [illegible], 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

[illegible] 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Central American) $

[illegible] Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 3668 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-5748 (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] [illegible] International Blvd., Oakland, 510-535-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria [illegible] 4345 International Blvd., [illegible], 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] 334 20th Ave., Oakland, 510-532-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

La Torta Loca 3419 International Blvd., [illegible], 510-533-[illegible] (Mexican) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

[illegible] [illegible], Hayward, 510-581-[illegible] (Italian) $$

[illegible] 1288 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Chicken/Peruvian) $

[illegible] Barbeque [illegible], Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 25036 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$

The Hayward [illegible] [illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-538-5522 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant and Pies 2631 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-[illegible] (Diner) $

[illegible] 29540 E. Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

[illegible] 842 B St., Hayward, 510-583-9444 (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$

[illegible] 3522 Arden Rd., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American) $

[illegible] Burger 14401 [illegible] Blvd., San Lorenzo, 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Caribbean) $$

[illegible] Sushi 1421 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] Burgers 2130 Kelly St., Hayward, 510-[illegible] (American/Diner) $

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[illegible] 42801 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] 3743 [illegible], Union City, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

De Afghanan [illegible] 37400 [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-[illegible] (Afghan/[illegible]) $-$$

[illegible] 43761 Mission Rd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Sweets and [illegible] [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] Grill 39250 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont, 510-791-7790 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 5200 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Italian) $-$$

[illegible] 40900 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

[illegible] 37462 [illegible] Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-[illegible] (Afghan/[illegible]/Halal/[illegible]) $$

[illegible] 39200 Cedar Blvd., Newark, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $

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[illegible] 1625 Salvio St., Ste. C, Concord, 925-825-3211 (Eastern European/German/Austrian) $$

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[illegible] Gyros and Hot Dogs 241 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible] (Greek/Turkish) $

[illegible] 1820 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 5411 Lone Tree Way #103, Brentwood, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 2211 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-[illegible] (Barbecue/Deli) $

La [illegible] 2151 [illegible] St., Ste. 1 (in [illegible] Plaza), Concord, 925-[illegible] (Italian) $-$$$

[illegible] 2118 Willow Pass Rd. #503, Concord, 925-[illegible] (Italian) $-$$$

[illegible] 2100 E. 18th St., Antioch,

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[illegible] House 1838 [illegible] Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-287-8918 (Chinese) $$-$$$

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Chow 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] Mexican Cafe 3563 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-8699 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] House 3555 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-7580 (Chinese) $$-$$$

Metro Lafayette 3524 [illegible] Blvd. (in the Plaza Shopping Center), Lafayette, 925-284-4422 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$

Pizza Antica 3600 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-0500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

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Ristorante Amoroma 360 Park St. (in the Rheem Valley shopping plaza), Moraga, 925-377-7662 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

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[illegible] 217 [illegible] Ave., Pleasanton, 925-462-[illegible] (French) $$$-$$$$

Denica's Cafe 620 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-4222 (Breakfast/Diner) $-$$

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[illegible] Grill 1001-A [illegible] Pl., San Ramon, 925-830-[illegible] (Hawaiian) $

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[illegible] Market 115 Town & Country Dr. Suite G, Danville, 925-552-0228 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 435 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, 925-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Chop House 1400 [illegible], Dublin, 925-[illegible] (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

The Patio 360 Moraga Rd., Lafayette, 925-[illegible] (South American/Tapas) $$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville, 925-820-6611 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Red Smoke Grill 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-734-0307 (Barbecue) $

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[illegible] 3151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon, 925-277-1028 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

[illegible] Trattoria 3011 Bollinger Canyon Way (in the Crow Canyon Commons), San Ramon, 925-[illegible] (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] 200 [illegible] Pl., San Ramon, 925-328-[illegible] (Mexican) $

[illegible] at the Vineyard 30 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, 925-449-7000 (Chinese) $$-$$$

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FOOD & WINE

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FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Webster St. at Taylor Ave., Alameda. 800-[illegible].

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-8080, ShopBayfair.com.

Concord Farmers' Market Thursdays, 4-8 p.m.; Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord, 925-671-3464.

Danville Certified Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Railroad St. at Prospect St., Danville.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Farmers' [illegible] Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-548-[illegible]. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St. (at Oregon St.), Berkeley, 510-981-5150. CI.berkeley.ca.us/recreation/[illegible].

Irvington Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bay St. at Fremont Blvd., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market In the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market At the main entrance of the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 [illegible] Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Martinez Medical Offices, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Concord Farmers' Market Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Concord, [illegible] St., Concord.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market On the cafeteria patio. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. ACE Hardware Parking Lot, 300 Arlington Ave., Berkeley.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel Dist. lot, Laurel District, Oakland, 510-[illegible].

Livermore Thursday Farmers' Market Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Carnegie Park, 3rd & J Sts., Livermore.

Martinez Certified Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [illegible] free. Main St., Martinez. 600 Main St., Martinez. CCFM.org.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-[illegible] p.m. Court St., Martinez, between Main & Escobar Sts., Martinez.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Fernandez Ave., at Pear St., Pinole.

Pleasanton Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Pleasanton Farmers' Market, West Angela St. (at First St.), Pleasanton.

Point Richmond Farmers' Market Fridays, [illegible] p.m. Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.), Richmond.

San Leandro Downtown Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Parrott St. between E. 14th St. & Washington Ave., San Leandro.

San Lorenzo Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Broadway Blvd., at Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-548-4700.

Temescal Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

Union City Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible] Cesar Chavez Park, [illegible] & Market St., Union City.

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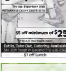
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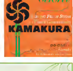
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CINEMA INFERNO

Inglourious Basterds gives itself a hot foot while Flame & Citron artfully smolders.

By Kelly Vance

There are so many filmic references in Inglourious Basterds that it deserves its own annotated version.

Quentin Tarantino has a brand-new toy: World War II. The aging boy wonder never lacks playthings. Something always pops up in his shooting gallery mind and *bang!* he bags it, either just for fun or for future use. But that's another story. This particular yarn, *Inglourious Basterds*, is the one about Nazis and Jews and American GIs locked in mortal combat in Europe in the 1940s, the "biggest news story of the 20th century," as Tarantino envisions it. It's what we might call a unique vision.

Just how unique depends on how much we know or care about a long row of subjects Tarantino deals with, topics the ordinary ticket-buying moviegoer doesn't necessarily need to bother with. For a certain segment of the audience, the sight of Brad Pitt scalping captured German soldiers while they're still alive, in graphic detail, will be the main selling point. Tarantino doesn't stint on that type of action — it's one of his trademarks, but only one of several.

Which is to say that if we dismiss the film as a lowbrow, eye-popping spectacle of extreme violence, we'd be throwing away a few other fascinating threads Tarantino has left dangling there for our amusement. Subtler things, more refined things, even though they often relate narratively to barbaric, distasteful people. That's part of the trap we always risk falling into when sizing up Tarantino — that we'll mistake his primitive side for the rest of his sensibility, the part of the 46-year-old filmmaker that's not primitive. The side that's scholarly, truly enthused about a wide (some might say too wide) array of cinematic expression and eager to share his delight. It's pretty much a fanboy's delight, but it's sincere.

Synopsizing *Inglourious Basterds* is a little like summing up WWII itself. There are too many "theaters of war" — in this case wide-ranging movie-historical facets playing out simultaneously — to highlight in one or two phrases. Essentially the scenario concerns a Death Head SS colonel named Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz), a sadistic fascist swine, meeting his comeuppance at the hands of avengers converging on him from different directions: the eponymous brutal squad of Jewish-American commandos led by Lt. Aldo Raine (Pitt); a less effective group of British soldiers; and, most improbably, a young Jewish French woman named Shosanna Dreyfus (Mélanie Laurent) whose family we see murdered by Landa. After a few stretched-out scenes establishing the bloody seriousness of it all, the action focuses on the neighborhood movie house Shosanna runs in Paris. As it happens, she and her black French boyfriend Marcel (Jacky Ido) are dedicated cineastes — shades of *Cinema Paradiso*.

Inglourious Basterds

Written and directed by Quentin Tarantino. With Brad Pitt, Mélanie Laurent, Christoph Waltz, and Daniel Brühl. Opens Friday.

Flame & Citron

Directed by Ole Christian Madsen. With Mads Mikkelsen and Thure Lindhardt. Opens Friday.

In fact, there are so many filmic references scattered through *Inglourious Basterds* that it probably deserves its own annotated version, a Tarantino commentary. No doubt there's one in the works for the home video market. Tarantino has discovered classic German cinema — naughty Nazi Leni Riefenstahl in particular, but also G.W. Pabst, Emil Jannings et al. — and is so thrilled about it he tosses out references like beer nuts. At least he resists trying a geometric shot of phalanxes of storm troopers marching down stairs à la *Triumph of the Will*. For the German-dialogue direction, Tarantino tapped contemporary auteur Tom Tykwer, a wise choice.

Then there are quotes from Hollywood and British WWII films by Robert Aldrich (*The Dirty Dozen*, natch), Samuel Fuller (*The Big Red One*, etc.), Michael Powell (*The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*), and Ernst Lubitsch (*To Be or Not to Be*), for starters. The Italian war flick Tarantino stole the title from, Enzo Castellari's 1978 *The Inglorious Bastards*, gets a passing nod — Tarantino is obviously more enthralled with the Germans, especially Third Reich patriotic war films like the one that's screening at Shosanna's theater. Of course Shosanna is the sort of movie fan who yearns to direct her own — doesn't everybody?

Austrian born TV actor Waltz steals the movie as natty villain Landa. Tarantino lavishes the same sort of attention on him that he once devoted to Samuel L. Jackson, and Waltz delivers — the glass-of-milk-and-meerschaum-pipe scene, the food-eating lesson, and so on. What a glorious ham. Not even Pitt's backwoods Tennessee scalp hunter can stay in the same shot with him. By the way, the Pitt character's inability to speak a European language, alongside the film title's misspellings, may be Tarantino's subtle comment on *Boobus americanus ignoramus*, then and now.

The movie could have lost thirty useless minutes of its two-and-a-half hour running time by trimming the ungainly British commando thread, with its stupid scene of Churchill (Rod Taylor, so help us) and Mike Myers' piss-poor accent. And why bother to drag in a corny Hitler (as crazy as the one in Dani Levy's *Mein Führer*), plus Goebbels and Goering, if you're not going whole hog and casting John Travolta as Mussolini? Remember the "Royale with Cheese" routine in *Pulp Fiction*? They're inventing a new junk food product line for *Inglourious Basterds* — the White Elephant Supreme.

After *Inglourious Basterds* it's a pleasure to seek relief in Ole Christian Madsen's realistically exciting Danish WWII adventure *Flame & Citron*. Think of it as a post-Tarantino palate cleanser.

Instead of Punch-and-Judy histrionics, director Madsen's screenplay (co-written with Lars Andersson) covers similar overlooked ground as Paul Verhoeven's *Soldier of Orange* — that is, a more-or-less true story of homegrown Northern European resistance to Nazi occupation — in the code-named characters of Flame (Thure Lindhardt), a cool-headed antifascist killer who's also a Copenhagen police officer, and Citron (Mads Mikkelsen), a scruffy leftist family man who at first appears to just be along for the ride. They're aided in their fight by Ketty (Stine Stengade), a beautiful courier who also tends to Flame's downtime, and hindered by the ruthless Gestapo chief (Hanns Zischler).

The two partisans' task is to eliminate Danish Nazi traitors, which they do with great efficiency in medium-long camera shots, one after another in picturesque Danish settings. But Flame and Citron are plagued by Nazi disinformation and deception. The Allied invasion of Europe is about to take place, and perhaps they're killing off the wrong people, the ones who are working for the British and will assume command after the Germans eventually leave. It's enough to drive them to drink — in marked contrast to the situation in places such as WWII Poland or Russia, Madsen's drama emphasizes the copious amounts of beer, wine, and food available in Copenhagen.

So maybe it's not completely realistic, but alongside Tarantino's *Twilight of the Pumpernickels*, *Flame & Citron* is a hard jewel of righteous political fury. The Nazis must die, preferably in the street like dogs. We'll drink to that. ●

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviation at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Afghan Star Afghanistan is really making progress — now it has its own version of *American Idol*. [illegible] working, follows along as a group of would-be singing sensations defy the lingering influence of the Taliban (music, dance, and television were banned from 1996 to 2001) by getting up in front of a nationwide TV audience and performing love songs — as long as the nation's religious leaders approve, that is. We also visit a beauty shop and Kabul Zoo, where there's a pig, a lion, and a peacock. A UK/Afghanistan coproduction (87 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

Flame & Citron A mismatched pair of WWII Danish resistance fighters — a Copenhagen cop code-named Flame (Thure Lindhardt) and a scruffy nationalist family man called Citron (Mads Mikkelsen) — [illegible] (133 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard Jeremy Piven plays Don [illegible] of a gang of traveling [illegible] [illegible] isn't so [illegible] of Comedy Central regulars like Ed Helms and David Koechner. Unfortunately *The Goods* just aren't that funny at the end of the day — at least not for the price of a ticket. By the time it arrives on Comedy Central, you'll probably laugh your ass off. (89 min.) (C.H.) [illegible]

Inglourious Basterds Quentin Tarantino does the same thing to World War II Europe that he did to Los Angeles, Japan, and the Mexican borderlands: he bends it to suit his purposes. Most of those purposes are worth watching, although the multi-layered story of a murderous German SS Colonel (Christoph Waltz), a scalp-hunting US Army lieutenant (Brad Pitt), a vengeance-seeking Jewish Frenchwoman (Mélanie Laurent), a squad of brutal Jewish-American GIs, and various long-winded Nazi goofballs may contain a few too many layers. At an [illegible] two-and-a-half hours, Tarantino's bloody [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. AL = Albany [illegible] views in and out of comprehensibility. Still, as these to [illegible] admire a Hollywood [illegible] who's willing to [illegible] students its [illegible] long [illegible] dialogue scenes when they'd rather watch Pitt scalp Nazi POWs. They brother have sent the entire "British commando" scheme to a concentration camp. Also with Til [illegible], Daniel Brühl, Jacky Ido, and August Diehl. A [illegible] (153 min.). [illegible]

Prisoners brother Unassuming documentary wins sympathy for a group of road-trip Philadelphian African American high school students — including a refugee from West Africa and a [illegible] brother — who get [illegible] in the [illegible] of professional [illegible] by a demanding teacher in hopes of [illegible]. Part of brother [illegible]'s program is to get them to students their "[illegible]" and focus on the big prize of [illegible] and a job. Summer by Jennifer [illegible] and Mark [illegible] (95 min.). (KA'G)

ONGOING

(500) Days of Summer This Marc Webb-directed [illegible] turns the mattress comedy genre on its ear. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Tom Hansen, a hopeless dreamer [illegible] of destined love, and he falls hard over Summer with the [illegible] Summer Finn (Zooey Deschanel), despite the fact that she [illegible] him she's not [illegible] in a relationship. [illegible] in its many indie-sensible ways, Tom and Summer's story [illegible] back and forth over the course of their romance, by night, by [illegible]. The [illegible] we [illegible] about love are [illegible] every bit as dangerous as the [illegible]. [illegible] (95 min.) [illegible]

A Perfect Getaway [illegible] honeymooners Steve Zahn and Milla Jovovich go backpacking on a remote Hawaiian island but [illegible] sharing the trail with two other [illegible] couples: the first (Chris Hemsworth and Marley Shelton) who have "redneck psychopath" [illegible] on their foreheads; they team up with the second (Timothy Olyphant and Kiele Sanchez), [illegible] about [illegible] Olyphant's [illegible] and the [illegible] strapped to his ankle. Writer-director David Twohy (Pitch Black) serves up [illegible] ending (97 min.). [illegible]

[illegible] Mostly on the strength of its leading players, writer-director and [illegible] tale of a young man suffering from Asperger's syndrome (English actor Hugh Dancy) finding love with a thoughtful young woman in his [illegible] (Australian Rose Byrne) [illegible] avoids most of the pathetic pitfalls [illegible] all of it as a [illegible] (The Last Days of Disco) [illegible] the [illegible] about Beth's father (Peter Gallagher) and his legal [illegible] from the filmmaker's [illegible] support by Frankie Faison [illegible] as Beth's mother. Mayor [illegible] (99 min.) [illegible]

Aliens in the Attic Director John Schultz's family-friendly offering centers on the [illegible] vacation, aliens and the kids' [illegible] With Carter Jenkins, Ashley [illegible] and more. [illegible]

Away We Go The [illegible] of Saturday Night Live's Maya Rudolph and fellow TV star John Krasinski (The Office) as [illegible] couple [illegible] for the ideal place to raise a family in the best thing about this [illegible] road-trip [illegible] by Sam Mendes (Revolutionary Road) [illegible] with [illegible] supporting actors — Maggie Gyllenhaal, Carmen Ejogo, Catherine O'Hara, Jeff Daniels, Allison Janney [illegible] America [illegible] (98 min.) [illegible]

Bandslam [illegible] (Lisa Kudrow) [illegible] Gaelan Connell [illegible] rock band, and together they achieve their [illegible] in the biggest event of the year: the battle of the bands (111 min.) [illegible]

Chéri A large, fluffy [illegible] romance, courtesy [illegible] Stephen Frears, who [illegible] Christopher Hampton's production of Colette's tragic love story. We're left with the Steel Magnolias [illegible] of a Belle Époque French [illegible] (Kathy Bates) [illegible] with a young [illegible] (Rupert Friend) by [illegible] of her [illegible] Kathy Bates, Harriet Walter [illegible] Felicity Jones [illegible] (100 min.) [illegible]

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Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Coco Souls [illegible] "Being Paul Giamatti" [illegible] the actor playing [illegible] for a stage production of Uncle Vanya by [illegible] soul [illegible] (David Strathairn). As if that weren't [illegible] (Dina Korzun) [illegible] St. Petersburg, [illegible] Giamatti's soul [illegible] Emily Watson (as Giamatti's wife), Kathryn Hahn and [illegible] (101 min.) [illegible]

The Collector Desperate to keep his wife from being [illegible] security consultant [illegible] to rob a client he just installed a security system for. Let's not [illegible] he has no idea what's in the safe he helped [illegible] you what goes wrong: [illegible] has been rigged with [illegible] booby traps by a [illegible] killer. [illegible] is [illegible] in the basement, and now Arkin — who, holy shit, is [illegible] to help save them. [illegible] Saw does [illegible] (88 min.) [illegible]

Cosmic Voyage Morgan Freeman [illegible] the universe [illegible] 40-min IMAX documentary. CSC

Dinosaurs Alive From the Triassic to the Cretaceous [illegible] uncovered by paleontologists and [illegible] in [illegible] CGI. CSC

District 9 [illegible] South Africa? A gigantic mother ship [illegible] outer space [illegible] Johannesburg for twenty years [illegible] "prawns," [illegible] Don't worry [illegible] District 9 [illegible] with the [illegible] and make [illegible] (played by [illegible] Sharlto Copley), a [illegible] bureaucrat assigned to evict the [illegible] from the [illegible] producer Peter [illegible] (112 min.) [illegible]

Forces of Nature Learn about the [illegible] of earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, and [illegible] National Geographic's [illegible] CSC

Funny People Adam Sandler plays a super-successful stand-up comic [illegible] George [illegible] nobody to confide in about the rare blood disease that will [illegible] (Seth Rogen), a young [illegible] comedian. George takes the guy [illegible] Funny People isn't always funny (though it is, a lot), and it's too long [illegible] writer-director Judd Apatow's [illegible] (146 min.) [illegible]

G-Force In this 3-D [illegible] feature, specially trained guinea pigs [illegible] to stop a diabolical billionaire from [illegible] over the world. Featuring the voices of Will Arnett, Zach Galifianakis, [illegible] and more. [illegible]

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra A spirited attempt by director Stephen Sommers (The Mummy) to [illegible] the [illegible] of ten-year-olds [illegible] G.I. Joe and Cobra toys. Unfortunately [illegible] while playing with [illegible] toys, [illegible]

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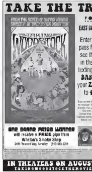
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as "Sophie the chaffe." Sure, some of the actors trying to sell such and then aren't even convincing as mannequins, but that's not the point. It's to watch our Hasbro childhood heroes look a lot of fun. In that respect, G.I. Joe makes infinitely more sense and is much more entertaining than any Transformers flick. It knows what it is, and does its job with breath abandon (118 min.) (C.H.) BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CDC, DW, EN, CLC, ER, CCC, CL, CA, CRC, RA, RH, JL, LAEB, WWC

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard Jeremy Piven stars as Don Ready, a used-car liquidator hired by a struggling Temecula dealership to turn its annual Fourth of July sale into a highly profitable event, headlined by Neal Brennan ("Chappelle's Show" Half Baked) (90 min.) BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CDC, CH

The Hangover Standard-brand childhood road-trip bromance runs four guys through a drunken Las Vegas bachelor-party blowout in which they forget everything that happened the night before. If only we could wipe out the memory of this slack comedy, written by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore and directed by Todd Phillips. The more "outrageous" it tries to be, the stupider it looks. One redeeming touch: Ken Jeong's lovingly absurd turn as Mr. Chow, the bitter Chinese gangster locked in the car trunk. Everything else [illegible] with Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper, and Justin Bartha (100 min.) (J.J.) BC, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CDC, CW, DP, RA, RH, JL, RCC, WWB

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince The sixth, seemingly "standard" installment of J.K. Rowling's outlandishly popular juvenile-wizard franchise (its release was rescheduled) finds adolescent Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) back at Hogwarts, using the mysterious, anonymous prince's potion book to help his friends get dates and, in his spare time, fending off the omnipresent evil Voldemort. Direction (by second-timer David Yates), art direction (Andrew Ackland-Snow), and character work — Michael Gambon, Emma Watson, Jim Broadbent, David Thewlis, Maggie Smith, Robbie Coltrane — are up to the customary standards, but naturally the dark side has the best lines: Alan Rickman, Tom Felton, Helena Bonham Carter, Timothy Spall, and Hero Fiennes-Tiffin, [illegible] several dazzling visual set pieces. It's hard to escape the notion that some of the magic has gone out of this series. Screenplay adaptation by Potter regular Steve Kloves (153 min.) (B.K.) BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CDC, CLC, DOC, EL, ER, RA, RH, JL, RT, RCC, WB

The Human Body Ever wonder how your body does what it does? "Humans your body to [illegible]" Find out in this fascinating trip through (you guessed it) the human body. Watch a [illegible] journey south: ear cells dancing to sounds and a 250-mph brain cell impulse. CSC

The Hurt Locker Kathryn Bigelow's heart-stopping Iraq war drama follows a U.S. army ordnance squad around Baghdad as it defuses IEDs, a job that places the men in potentially deadly situations a dozen times a day. After the squad's explosives expert is killed in action, he's replaced by a shameless cowboy (Jeremy Renner) whose needless risk-taking infuriates his two partners (Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty). He's a true weirdo, but Bigelow defines that in terms of addiction; as one of the other soldiers points out, he doesn't mind endangering them to get his daily adrenaline fix. The war has already produced some excellent fiction films (The Lucky Ones, In the Valley of Elah), but this is the first to reckon with the controversy surrounding the invasion and finds [illegible] subject of [illegible]. It's the best war movie since Full Metal Jacket. With Ralph Fiennes and David Morse. (130 min.) (J.J.) BC, CWC, CDC, CEPH, CA, PM, RH, LAEB, V

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs Not even 3D can save this third entry in the Fox animation franchise about the ice-age crew of prehistoric creatures. This time they face threats from beneath the earth's Jurassic crust: [illegible] discovers a trio of dinosaur eggs, [illegible] the hatchlings, and enters the world of their mama, a Tyrannosaurus-rex. Simon Pegg provides the voice of a buccaneer weasel that leads the gang through one chase after another; the manic pace quickly grows tiresome, as does the effort of [illegible] baby dinosaur. Carlos Saldanha and Mike Thurmeier directed; among the other voice talent are Ray Romano, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary, and John Leguizamo (97 min.) (A.G.) CDC, RA, RH

In the Loop Hilarious, brutally barbed, UK-produced political satire about a raft of British and American government and military flunkies in the run-up to an unspecified war — but we all know it's the Bush/Tony Blair invasion of Iraq in 2003. The chief target is TV [illegible] creator Armando Iannucci (The Thick of It) and his team of four [illegible] writers is the apparatchiks and bureaucrats on both sides of the Atlantic who really only care about saving their careers. The collateral damage in Iraq is secondary. Terrific, [illegible] and shocking, about equivocation by pawns [illegible] Capitol: Tom Hollander, James Gandolfini, Gina McKee, Chris Addison, Anna Chlumsky, David Rasche, and the [illegible] cabal of [illegible] warmongers. The psych is inescapable: these characters' shielding [illegible] thousands of lives. [illegible] right along [illegible] (106 min.) (A.V.)(A.L.) V

Julie & Julia Meryl Streep comically rollicks and whooshes her way through the kitchens of Paris as food-icon Julia Child in a tribute to [illegible] French cuisine popular in 1950s America. The [illegible] half of Nora Ephron's lightheaded [illegible] pits [illegible] contemporary blogger Julie Powell (Amy Adams) paying tribute to Child by cooking every one of her recipes — and what? Streep [illegible] as if she's having fun, but Adams' girl-next-door

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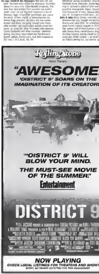
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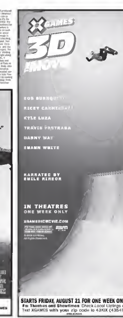
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audiences shows signs of wear and tear. The film's saving grace is Stanley Tucci as Child's devoted [illegible] and the [illegible] his character actually manages to connect the concepts of "Julie Child" and "sex." The humany, high-calorie screenplay is by writer-director Ephron, adapting guides by Child and Powell. Too bulky by and (123 min.) (PG-13) [illegible] BS, EC [illegible] CWC, CB, CEPH, CH [illegible] EM, EN, IM, CCC, PM, SA, RR, CRC, PA, RH, RCE

Kambakkht Ishq Saif Khan [illegible] romantic comedy about an Indian stuntman (Akshay Kumar) in Hollywood [illegible] for true love. With cameos by Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and more. (142 min.) NB

The Living Sea You've seen *Finding Nemo*, now see the IM Thing. It's a trip to the [illegible] ocean narrated by Meryl Streep, with songs and music by Sting. CSC

Lorna's Silence [illegible] narrative investigation into the lives of [illegible] young people trying to survive in the New Europe – this time told by writer-directors Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne as a love story of [illegible] an Albanian immigrant worker (played by Arta Dobroshi) and the [illegible] drug [illegible] (Jérémie Renier) she marries as part of a [illegible] international passport scheme. [illegible] played by Fabrizio Rongione [illegible] Russian gangster, and [illegible] best boyfriend [illegible] A quiet masterpiece [illegible] twist of European [illegible] (105 min.) (R) VS

Love Aaj Kal Two [illegible] one from the past [illegible] and one from the past, pursue [illegible] paths to true love. With Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, and Rishi Kapoor. In Hindi with English subtitles. CUC, NB

Luck [illegible] the legendary actor Kamal Haasan, making the Bollywood [illegible] the betting industry. In Hindi with English subtitles. NB

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history and most importantly, mysteries of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Not Quite Hollywood A [illegible] entertaining documentary on Australian sex, violence, and [illegible] genre flicks of the '70s and '80s [illegible] plenty of [illegible] heads [illegible] Quentin Tarantino [illegible] to explain that while international audiences were [illegible] art films and prestigious [illegible] by such directors as Peter Weir and Bruce Beresford, the moviegoers back home in Oz were gorging themselves on "ocker" (good old boy) humor [illegible] wild boars, [illegible] bikers, kung-fu, [illegible] ("chunder") [illegible] and Jamie Lee Curtis, not necessarily in that order. Filmmaker Mark Hartley's compilation [illegible] like the feature-length trailer for a DVD [illegible] edition on the Exploitation [illegible] (103 min.) (R) VS

Orphan In *Orphan*, John and Kate finally get their comeuppance [illegible] Vera Farmiga and Peter Sarsgaard [illegible] Esther, a creepy, pale kid [illegible] (123 min.) (R) [illegible]

Paper Heart Charlyne Yi [illegible] documentary [illegible] With Michael Cera and Jake M. Johnson. CAPH, RCE

Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) [illegible] a little goldfish girl is rescued by a five-year-old boy called Sosuke, who gives her the name Ponyo. They become best friends [illegible] a strange, watery journey [illegible] of nature [illegible] Hayao Miyazaki's [illegible] *Princess Mononoke*. The first-rate voice lineup in the English version include Cate Blanchett, Liam Neeson, Matt Damon, Tina Fey, Frankie Jonas as Sosuke, and Noah Cyrus as Ponyo. (101 min.) (G) [illegible]

Post Grad Alexis Bledel (*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*) stars as Ryden Malby, a college graduate who is [illegible] back into her childhood home [illegible] eccentric family, [illegible] she'll try to find a job, a boyfriend, and some idea of where she's headed.

Post Grad Alexis Bledel (*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*) stars as Ryden Malby, a college graduate who is [illegible] back into her childhood home [illegible] eccentric family, [illegible] she'll try to find a job, a boyfriend, and some idea of where she's [illegible]

Public Enemies The [illegible] Johnny Depp version of legendary Midwestern [illegible] John Dillinger's life and [illegible] the Great Depression, with a [illegible] Dillinger (Depp) trying in vain to outrun G-man [illegible] Melvin Purvis (Christian Bale) while knocking off [illegible] banks. As dramatized by director Mann and [illegible] Ronan Bennett and [illegible] (they adapted Bryan Burrough's book), Dillinger presented a threat to both J. Edgar Hoover's FBI and organized crime [illegible] but on his way out, there are enough jail breaks, ambushes, and tommy guns [illegible] Marion Cotillard as Dillinger's girlfriend, Stephen Dorff as a henchman, Billy Crudup as the [illegible] Hoover, Lili Taylor as a 1930s female sheriff, Stephen Lang as a [illegible] Fed, et al. Gorgeous cinematography by Dante Spinotti. Somber but magnificent. (140 min.) (R) [illegible]

Séraphine Achingly beautiful to look at and [illegible] inspired creativity, the [illegible] story of early-20th-century "Modern Primitive" [illegible] Séraphine de Senlis [illegible] French [illegible] Yolande Moreau (*The Last Mistress*, *Amélie*) brilliantly portrays Séraphine as a devout, simple soul who [illegible] gathering natural materials in the forest for her paints while working as a [illegible] until she's discovered by art dealer Wilhelm Uhde (Ulrich Tukur), who [illegible] energy [illegible] Martin Provost [illegible] depicts the painter as part ecstatic religious mystic, part child of nature. Highly recommended, especially for visual arts enthusiasts. (125 min.) (R) VS

Tamanchey – The Gun Is On [illegible] Shekhar (Akshay Khanna) and [illegible] Raju (Arshad Warsi) take the lead roles in this comedy [illegible] values. NB

The Time Traveler's Wife Fans of Audrey Niffenegger's best-selling romantic [illegible] have been [illegible] for years [illegible] Eric Bana plays a man whose [illegible] causes him to slip back and forth in time. Rachel McAdams is the [illegible] falls in and [illegible] with him as a little girl and eventually finds her life governed by events that haven't yet occurred. Most time-travel [illegible] on the [illegible] of

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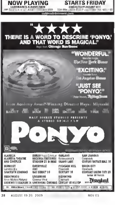

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characters mucking up the past and creating alternate realities; in the end the time bandits don't change anything, which shifts the film's focus to patience, adjustment, and the ability to love. [illegible] Bruce Joel Rubin [illegible] Ghost [illegible] moderately thoughtful [illegible] Robert Schwentke directed (101 min.) [illegible] CINE, [illegible] (G)

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen [illegible] Michael Bay [illegible] sequel to his 2007 hit, inspired by the [illegible] toys, [illegible] Shia LaBeouf returns as the teenage hero, now off to college [illegible] and the evil Decepticons. [illegible] and the dialogue slightly more [illegible]

often in the first movie, but the anti-Arab subtext is [illegible] both an Egyptian [illegible] and part of the antique [illegible] city of Petra (150 min.). (A.G.) [illegible]

The Ugly Truth The Ugly Truth [illegible] romantic comedy for [illegible] comedy for women [illegible] Katherine Heigl is Abby, a humorless local news producer [illegible] Gerard Butler. [illegible]

[illegible] should get on a [illegible] First the two argue, then they [illegible] Abby [illegible] happy ending for her would mean an unhappy ending for audiences (101 min.) [illegible]

Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg [illegible] documentary about radio and early-television star Gertrude Berg, whose 1950s-era TV shows, The Goldbergs (the title of the show's [illegible] "new era for Jewish mothers" and helped introduce Jewish characters to a broad American audience. Hardworking writer-star Berg (born Tillie Edelstein in New York City) [illegible] which nevertheless [illegible] A worthwhile pop-cultural history lesson by writer-producer-director Aviva Kempner (92 min.). (K.V.)

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

In the Land of the Head Hunters (65 min., 1914); With Judith Rosenberg on piano. Secrets Beyond the Door: Treasures from the UCLA Festival of Preservation (PFA, 6:30)

Dirty Little Billy (92 min., 1972). Eccentric Cinema: [illegible] Oddities and Entities, 1959-82 (PFA, 8:45)

Splash (111 min., 1984); [illegible] Lincoln Square, Oakland, 7:30)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Gabbo and Sparrows (91 min., 1966); Ecco Cuomo: Celebrating Italian Actors (PFA, 6:30)

The Gospel According to St. Matthew (137 min., 1964); Ecco Cuomo: Celebrating Italian Actors (PFA, 8:25)

Rear Window (112 min., 1954); Movie Classics Series (Paramount Theatre, Oakland, 8:00)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Brief Encounter (86 min., 1945); Into the Vortex: Female Voice in Film (PFA, 6:30)

The Enchanted Cottage (92 min., 1945); Into the Vortex: Female Voice in Film (PFA, 8:15)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Young America (71 min., 1932); Secrets Beyond the Door: Treasures from the UCLA Festival of Preservation (PFA, 5:00)

Song o' My Heart (85 min., 1930); Secrets Beyond the Door: Treasures from the UCLA Festival of Preservation (PFA, 6:20)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Join in the Lake of Love (105 min., 1992); With a lecture by [illegible] (20 min.); Into the Vortex: Female Voice in Film (PFA, 7:00)

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JAZZ'S MAFIOSO

Adam Theis' Brass, Bows and Beats merges hip-hop, classical, jazz and electronic

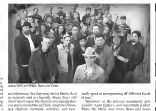
By Ellen Cushing

The name may evoke all kinds of bizarre Scarface-with-a-saxophone mental images, but the Bay Area Jazz Mafia is anything but silly or contrived. It's a loose-knit and ever-evolving constellation of serious and dedicated jazz and funk musicians, emcees, and composers, many of whom have been jamming together for more than a decade. This weekend, they'll be bringing Brass, Bows and Beats — a soaring, full-size hip-hop symphony that first appeared at the SFJAZZ festival in April — to Yoshi's San Francisco.

At the center of both the collaborative and the show is trombonist, bassist, and composer Adam Theis. "Adam's the sun," said Dublin, the vocalist for Mafia affiliate Shotgun Wedding Quintet. "Everything orbits around him." It was Theis who conceived of the Mafia in the first place, and he was the recipient of the $50,000 grant from the Hewlett and Gerbode foundations that made Brass, Bows and Beats possible.

Theis grew up in Sonoma County, studied jazz composition and performance at Sonoma State, and led a handful of North Bay bands before moving to San Francisco in 1998 to form the Jazz Mafia. The collaborative's first weekly gig was at North Beach's now-defunct Black Cat; when the club closed in 2003, Theis and the Mafia moved on, tumbleweeding from residency to residency, picking up a devoted following and a dedicated corps of musicians along the way. These days, they're playing regular Tuesday shows at Coda, and Theis now counts as members of the Mafia close to sixty musicians, sprinkled among several groups.

Each of these bands has its own distinct sound — from Shotgun Wedding's strings-heavy jazz-hop to the Realistic Orchestra's big band sensibility. But their members tend to overlap, and all the groups are firmly rooted in a spirit of fusion and experimentation, blending innovative hip-hop-inflected beats with old-school instrumental virtuosity. The result is like what you'd hear if a full-size philharmonic found itself jamming with a classic big band during a street-corner rap battle. In other words, it's like nothing you've ever heard before. "It's a really interesting, dynamic thing," said Dublin, referring to the hour-long symphonic suite, which is the culmination of the Mafia's work thus far. "Adam mixed a really old kind of arranging with current ideas of hip-hop, so what you get is these hard beats mixed with emotional strings and horns."


Adam Theis and Brass, Bows and Beats.

In a genre founded on experimentation — and in a moment when everyone is sampling everyone else and DJs are spinning mashed-up genre-benders to sold-out crowds — Theis and the Mafia certainly aren't the first to find the sweet spot between hip-hop, classical, jazz, and electronic. But they may be the first to do it so earnestly and so elegantly. Brass, Bows and Beats layers rapid-fire rhymes over equally furious instrumentation and fully integrates boom-bap rhythms, turntable scratches, and beatboxing into classic symphonic arrangements. While the Mafia is undeniably loyal to its jazz roots, hip-hop is given the respect it deserves but rarely gets — it's not an afterthought or a gimmick, a lone emcee rapping over what was really intended to be a traditional piece.

The show is also unprecedented in its size: It's one thing to combine genres, but quite another to do so with $50,000, a forty-piece ensemble, and a full year to craft the thing. "The grant was to put together something really large," Theis said. "Our idea was, let's just take the work we've been doing and do it at a much bigger scale." Indeed, everything about April's sold-out show at the Palace of Fine Arts was big: the band, the audience, the ambition. Theis said that this iteration has been downsized from the original in a few ways — most notably, Berkeley emcee Lyrics Born won't be participating, and the ensemble has been pared down from sixty musicians to forty to accommodate the tighter space at Yoshi's. Even so, it's safe to expect the same lush, layered sound and almost operatic largeness at the upcoming show.

Brass, Bows and Beats' scale is particularly remarkable given how hard the past few years have been on San Francisco's jazz scene. From the genre's mid-century golden age through the dot-com boom, the city was a hub for jazz musicians and fans, but Theis saw many of the scene's best and brightest skip town for New York in the late 1990s and early 2000s. "There was a huge exodus of musicians around the dot-com crash," he recalled. "Things got harder." And they appear to have only worsened in the economic downturn, as venerable joints have struggled to stay afloat. Jazz at Pearl's closed last year, Bruno's (which hosted the Mafia for years) switched to a Top-40 format last fall, and even Yoshi's had to take out several loans from the City of San Francisco after seeing business drop precipitously. But Theis said, it's this kind of climate that fosters the kind of creativity that drives the Jazz Mafia. "When you have to struggle a little bit, that's when the best stuff happens creatively. Because at this point, if you just limit yourself to straight-ahead jazz, unless you're Wynton Marsalis, you can't make a living. So most people have gotten really good at incorporating all different kinds of jazz."

Show Details

Brass, Bows and Beats plays at San Francisco Yoshi's (1330 Fillmore St.) Aug. 20-22, 8 p.m. & 10 p.m. $20-$26. Yoshis.com

Moreover, as the musical community gets smaller, it gets tighter — and community is what Theis, the Mafia, and Brass, Bows and Beats are all about. "There's an overwhelming sense of community and partnership and teamwork with the Jazz Mafia," said Kalyn Paige, vocalist for Mafia group Supertaster, who'll appear in the upcoming show. As tough as the market is, the Mafia's various groups and individuals don't compete with each other for gigs, and Theis said one of his goals in forming the collective in the first place was to dissolve some of the cliquishness of the scene. As cheeky as the Mafia moniker may seem at first blush, Theis said it's really meant to evoke the idea of a family, as well as the bravery that many of his musicians displayed in being willing to improvise and stretch boundaries.

The symphony's general narrative theme centers around the concept of community — creating it, finding it, defining it — according to Dublin, who penned many of the lyrics. The piece is community-oriented in its form as well as its content. Like everything Theis touches, the project is a truly collaborative effort. "What is so special about Adam is that belief in community," said Joe Bagale, who wrote many of the show's vocal arrangements. "He could've just went and written this whole thing himself, but he really wanted to involve other musicians." Theis is quick to emphasize the creative support he got from Mafia members — particularly Dublin, Paige, and Bagale, who contributed quite significantly to the lyrics and arrangements. It's all part of his collaborative ethos. "This is a community we've created, and we wanted to use [the grant] as an opportunity to include even more people in that community."

In a way, even the Mafia's sound builds community as it breaks down the boundaries between musical categories. In making hip-hop respectable and jazz accessible, Theis and the Mafia have opened up each genre to new fans, and shown just how much groups as seemingly disparate as hip-hop-heads and jazz-lovers have in common. This isn't lost on Theis. "It's as gratifying seeing older people, younger people, all different ethnicities at the shows. It's the best feeling, really. It's what it's about." ●

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COMBAT AND NOISE

Neurosis' Scott Kelly taps local musicians to helm his Internet radio station

By Paula Lehman

The origins of Scott Kelly's brainchild Combat Music Radio, began in Peoples Park in the shadows of 924 Gilman Street, in small studios scattered around town. Those were the meccas for punk rockers from Oakland in the 1980s. They created music and banded together as a community of rebels.

That was when Kelly, vocalist and guitarist for the band Neurosis, met Amanda Hines, Ben Sizemore, and Eugene Robinson. The three shared musical tastes and met up at shows for their respective bands — Hines played for Narcotica, Sizemore for Econochrist, and Robinson in Oxbow. So when Kelly started his own radio show from his home in southern Oregon in 2005, all he had to do was call up his old friends to fill the hours.

The three are current DJs on Kelly's Combat Music Radio (or KMBT), an Internet radio station that blends combat, blood sports with rock, punk, and metal. Shows include interviews with Mixed Martial Arts athletes.

Scott Kelly

"We're the procreators," Kelly said. "We play what interests us, what we want to play." Kelly first had the idea to start up what he envisioned as a college radio show five years ago. But he quickly abandoned the idea when he saw the amount of exposure he could get — and the money he could save — by having a radio show that was broadcast on the Internet.

"I realized it was dumb because there was this much bigger thing out there," Kelly said. "Once that clicked, I saw this thing is reaching much more people." And so a show was born out of a "caveman perspective," as Kelly calls it, mostly because Kelly does not consider himself a "tech guy." However, he eventually found the format simple and easy to maintain. Hosts of Combat Music Radio's radio shows burn their segments onto MP3s and post them to the site, much like a blog.

Kelly has expanded his show to five days a week and estimates he has about 20,000 listeners. He has no marketing strategy other than word of mouth, plus bringing in hosts that are "out there doing stuff" and have networks of their own to attract listeners. Amanda Hines, who runs the local production company Lava Booking, hosts the show *Love or Leave It*. She got the job via text message from Kelly. To Hines, the fit was natural; her mother was a radio host. Hines has a Rolodex that both enhances her show and attracts musicians and fans of the scene. She has featured many of the bands that have played on her Lava Nights in San Jose and at the Oakland Metro Operahouse. But her first interview was with her mother — the two discussed the life and career of Hines' grandmother, who started in the pro-wrestling promotion biz in 1958.

Although the station's programming centers around combat sports such as Ultimate Fighting Championship and Mixed Martial Arts events, as well as professional wrestling, hosts are pretty much given as much freedom as they want. It just so happens that they share the same musical tastes, which results in a pretty cohesive format.

Ben Sizemore, who moved to Oakland from Little Rock in 1989, remembers the days when punks and the underground movement were still "dangerous and offensive." Sizemore says the movement was tight knit, with bands practicing in the same spaces and rocking out at the same venues. He met Kelly in the early 1990s, and a friendship manifested out of their common love for punk rock and dedication to the scene. When Sizemore got the call from Kelly that one of the hosts had dropped off the show, Sizemore was quick to raise his hand and offer up his extensive record collection to start his own show, a one-hour segment called *Pressure's On*. The show consists of anarcho-punk, early-1980s American punk, and hardcore punk, along with a number of other variations of the genre.

The best part of Kelly's program, Sizemore says, is the freedom — not only the freedom to play anything you want, but also the freedom of the Internet, which opens up his audience, allows him to cuss, and lets him dabble here and there. He often provides links to videos and articles related to whatever his theme is for his show, such as links to casualty reports if he is playing antiwar songs, of which there are plenty.

Paul Maloney, editor of the Internet newsletter RAIN, says this freedom, along with the proliferation of broadband connections, is the real reason Internet radio stations are starting to pop up more rapidly around the world. Additionally, regulation for radio has not quite caught up with technology.

"One of the great things about the Internet is that the barriers to entry are low," Maloney said. "You don't have to have an FCC license, which would require you to be tightly regulated."

While Kelly's numbers are nowhere near sites like Pandora, he hopes one day for the site to become profitable. For now, the show is sponsored solely by donations and Kelly's pocket. But despite the fact that the station is "just noise," as Kelly describes it, it is gaining popularity — in the true spirit of "good ol' fashion punk rock." ●

To listen, tune into CombatMusicRadio.com.

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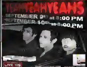

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CD REVIEWS

PLEASURE AND PAIN

High-concept indie rock, jazz interpretation of art rock, and gospel-inspired funk.

The Antlers

Hospice

High-flown emotional-concept check. Wailing, earnest vocals, check. Literary references, check. Buzz from Pitchfork and NPR, check. Yup, the Antlers' *Hospice* is as indie-rock cognoscenti friendly as Arcade Fire's debut, and shares many of its main ingredients. Yet this Brooklyn band's debut full-length makes for a decidedly uneasy listen next to the comparatively sunny *Funeral*.

Hospice is an infirmary and a psych ward, and the band uses some dynamics to well to simulate those environments. Hushed promises and pleadings give way to bitter demands; give way to brass fanfares and tasteful feedback. *Let me take your temperature*, Peter Silberman bleats insistently over a slab of chugging guitars in the ominous-sodden ballad "Sylvia." It sounds like a last request made in the throes of a panic attack. That's fitting — there's somebody dying of cancer here.

Hospice is a protracted public mourning for somebody who's dying, not dead, and the narrator is at a loss as to how to ease the pain — the patient's and his own. The music doesn't forget this. Even the moments of beauty and reconciliation are plaintive, or bitter, or full of regret — to the very end. Take this line from "Epilogue," the final track and one of the album's tersest: *You're screaming and cursing and angry and hurting me and then sobbing and crying and apologizing*. By the time Silberman sings these words, if you've been listening, you're exhausted. (Frenchkiss)

— Richard Parks

Beep!

You Are a Friend You are a Special Friend

Keyboardist Michael Coleman is a musician's musician. He favors tricky forms of conditioning, like practicing "Giant Steps" a hundred different ways in one sitting. He knows classical music and has the tonal precision of a concert *pianist*, but he traffics in abstract harmonies. Most importantly, he's a fascinating composer prone to tweak genres in imaginative ways. Such qualities come to bear in Beep!, the three-member jazz trio that Coleman formed a couple of years ago with bassist Nate Brenner and drummer Sam Ospovat. The group's new album, which features ten tunes by Coleman and two by Brenner, totters between canonical and contemporary forms. It's what you get when three jazz musicians get together to make "art rock": a very well-schooled approach with a sensibility that resists cleanness or consonance.

You Are a Friend kicks off with "One for Tilly," a piece with an elegant baroque head and tightly shaped solos, wherein everything comes together with perfect sine-wave roundness. It's an apt introduction to Coleman's style, since he tends to wind everything around a single unifying theme. Yet he doesn't always favor snug harmonies or round numbers. The chord changes on "1524 7th Ave." — a song about Coleman's gritty East Oakland neighborhood — are itchy and abrasive. "Hostile Takeover" is a dizzying swirl of notes and drum fills. The rock tune "Machines," in which Coleman and Brenner sing together in a kind of wheezy falsetto, applies weird harmonies to an indie-rock template. In fact, most of the songs on *You Are a Friend* incorporate a lot of outré ideas in a space that's quite well contained. It's rigorous, it's heady, it's often a little perplexing. Fortunately, there's pleasure on the surface, too.

— Rachel Swan

Beep! plays Thursday, Aug. 27 at San Francisco's Red Poppy Art House (2698 Folsom St.), 8 p.m. $10-$15. BeepTrio.com

Ledisi

Turn Me Loose

"Them Changes," penned by drummer Buddy Miles, who recorded it with both Jimi Hendrix's Band of Gypsys and his own Freedom Express, served as the inspiration for Ledisi's fifth and funkiest CD. With drummer Teddy Thompson (of Mary Mary and *American Idol* renown) ferociously locking along horn section riffs and Errol Cooney's hypnotic Hendrix-derived rhythm patterns and scorching guitar solo, the Oakland soul siren wails with virtuosic abandon on the funk-rock classic, the only tune on the fourteen-track disc she didn't have a hand in writing. The title did, however, lead Ledisi to compose the original songs "Everything Changes," "Love Never Changes," and "Goin Thru Changes" in collaboration with, respectively, co-producers Carl "Chucky" Thompson, Raphael Saadiq, and Rex Rideout.

Working for the first time with a variety of writer-producers, also including Chief Xcel, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Ivan Barias and Carvin Haggins, and Eric Krasno and Adam Deitch, provides the vocalist with a wider range of canvases on which to apply her multi-octave jazz- and gospel-imbued magic, from the provocative power ballad "The Answer to Why," written with Rideout, to the Memphis grooves and churchy melodies of the two songs cut with Saadiq. Many selections use programmed percussion, but Ledisi seems most inspired when singing with live drummers. Campbell plays on four tracks and Deitch on two, including "Knockin'," a Meters-style trip back to Ledisi's native New Orleans that features the John Scofield sideman's slamming Zigaboo Modeliste-inspired syncopations and Krasno's blistering Leo Nocentelli-like guitar. (Verve Forecast)

— Lee Hildebrand

[illegible]

[illegible]

Tartufi

Nests of Waves and Wire

The name of this San Francisco duo's third full-length couldn't be more appropriate: its layered and looped guitar and vocal lines weave their way in and out of one another in short segments. The math-rock-inspired approach is certainly experimental, but it works — there's enough space between the instruments to maintain intrigue and enough power to carry real weight. (Southern Records)

At the Rock Make Street Festival (Treat Ave. between 17th and 18th sts.) on August 23. Noon. free

Steve Taylor

Has the Size of the Hole Got the Better of You?

What could've been just another singer-songwriter vanity project gradually reveals a more nebulous context. Newly minted Rogue Wave keyboardist Taylor opens his debut full-length with the fairly standard 1960s pop number "Reality," then proceeds to survey soul, psychedelic folk, gospel, and easy listening. This record about the road of life offers a journey of its own. (self-released)

The New Up

Better Off EP

With this third release and second EP, this female-fronted San Francisco quartet has grown into one of the Bay Area's most interesting rock groups. What began as anonymous alt rock on an uncertain foundation has matured into a Radiohead-inspired hard rock hybrid delivering as many familiar references as trademark touches. The songs aren't all winners, but the potential is palpable. (self-released)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., San Francisco) on August 21. 9:30 p.m. $12

pc muñoz

What Happened?!

Some moments find this San Francisco musician and producer channeling Prince. Others, like kickoff track "Happy Hour," could be outtakes from Beck's *Odelay*. Spoken-word saga "The Master Thief" was co-written by avant-garde legend Joan Jeanrenaud, and three tracks later it gets the remix treatment. What happened? Only muñoz knows, but that's why we like it. (Talking House Records)

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[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 pm, $18

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ [illegible], plus [illegible] at 8 pm, Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10-$13
[illegible] featuring [illegible] & [illegible], La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $15
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Annie's Social Club, 8 pm, $8

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] & Christopher [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Gallery, 8 pm, $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
[illegible] San Francisco-based [illegible] performs the jazz and [illegible] of the [illegible], 7:30-10:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $20
[illegible] The Fillmore, 8 pm, $20
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $8
[illegible] Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 12:30-1:30 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], the [illegible], Grant & Green, 9 pm, free
[illegible] w/ the [illegible], [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $15
The Toy Soldiers w/ [illegible], the Horde and the Harem, & the [illegible] Gang, [illegible], 8 pm, $15
Vans Warped Tour w/ NOFX, [illegible], Less Than Jake, Underoath, [illegible], [illegible], Silverstein, & more, Shoreline Amphitheatre, 11 am, $33.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Hip-Hop Symphony featuring [illegible] and the Jazz Mafia Symphony, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$26

[illegible] Coda, 8 pm, $7
[illegible] & [illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10-$12

FRIDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Armando's, 8 pm, $20
[illegible] plus Cajun dance lessons at 8:15 p.m., [illegible] Hall, 8 pm, $15
Dave Chambers Roundup Saloon, 8 pm, free
[illegible] Art [illegible] Gallery & Cultural Center, 8 pm, $5-$10 [illegible]
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9:30 pm, $7

Experimental & Avant Garde

[illegible] 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8:30 pm, $8-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$30
[illegible] Jazz Trio Speisekammer, 8 pm, free
Judy [illegible] Caffe Trieste, 6-10 pm, free
Michael O'Neill & Friends Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $14
[illegible] The Alley, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Jazz [illegible] featuring the Calvin Keys Duo, [illegible] Quartet, & [illegible], La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $10
[illegible] Singers Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ the [illegible], the [illegible], & Graham Patzner, Blakes on Telegraph, 8:30 pm, $8-$15
[illegible] Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $55.50-$65.50
[illegible] Ben's Irish Sports Bar, 9 pm, $5
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ Guidance Counselor, the Super Cuts, Uptown, 8 pm, $8
[illegible] Beckett's, 10 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10-$12
Magic Moments Lions [illegible] Park, 7-8:30 pm, free
Mystic Rage w/ [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $7
[illegible] w/ the [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], Stork Club, 8 pm, $7
[illegible] [illegible], 7-8:30 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Jerry Kennedy 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, 7:30 pm, free
[illegible] Kaiser Center Roof Garden, 12-1 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Kenneth Parker live flamenco guitar & [illegible] on [illegible], 7:30 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] and the [illegible] w/ [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 8 pm, $10-$12
[illegible] & the Golden Cadillacs w/ [illegible], [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $8
E.C. Scott Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
[illegible] Coda, 10 pm, $10
"You Are Here" live music [illegible] throughout [illegible] w/ rotating artists, San Francisco International Airport, 11 am-2 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ the [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $5-$7
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 pm, $10-$12
[illegible] w/ Four Year Strong, [illegible], Slim's, 8 pm, $15
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 8 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Body & Soul Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Hip-Hop Symphony featuring Adam Theis and the Jazz Mafia Symphony, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$26

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Aphrodesia w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $15-$18
[illegible] Nights Buena Vista-style Latin dancing w/ [illegible], Salsa & [illegible], Peña Pachamama, 8:30 pm, $13.50
A Moment In Time featuring [illegible] with the Harmony [illegible] Singers & [illegible], The Regency Ballroom, 8 pm, $28.50-$30

SATURDAY 22

EASY BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Saddle Rack, 10 pm, $5
[illegible] Saddle Rack, 7:15 pm, $5
[illegible] Presents [illegible] & the Tight Fit Blues Band [illegible] & [illegible] Barbeque, 3 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, $5
The Righteous [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12-$15
Taarka w/ Aaron Beaumont, [illegible], Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Jazz Trio w/ Michael Coleman, Albatross Pub, 8:30 pm, $3
[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$30
Frisky Frolics Speisekammer, 8 pm, free
Harley White Jr. Trio Jupiter, 8 pm, free
Lisa [illegible] & Her Poetic [illegible] Trio Armando's, 8 pm, $8
[illegible] Jazz Festival w/ Anita [illegible], [illegible], Jazz [illegible], Fourplay, & [illegible], Sleep Train Pavilion at Concord, 4 pm, $25-$75
Red Hot [illegible] The Alley, 8 pm, free
[illegible] Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $14

Rock & Pop

2AM Beckett's, 10 pm, free
7 Generations w/ [illegible], the Sensation [illegible], Lookdown, & Pussy Whipped, 924 Gilman, 8 pm, $6
Chris Isaak Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $55.50-$65.50
An Evening w/ [illegible] Beckett's, 8:30 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], Stork Club, 6 pm, $5
Maggie [illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] & the [illegible], Mama Buzz Cafe and Buzz Gallery, 7 pm, [illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Entertainment [illegible] Carnival, 8 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] on Telegraph, 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Karamba [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible], Ashkenaz, 9:30 pm, $12-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lady [illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $20
[illegible] Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum, 12:30 pm, free

THURSDAY -
thunder dome thursdays with dj [illegible] 10pm

FRIDAY -
happy hours with golden [illegible] 6-10pm
deejay om 10pm

SATURDAY -
warm-up with disco by [illegible] 7-10pm
[illegible] with dj spank bank and [illegible] 10pm

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THURS 10PM no cover	DESCENDANTS UNITED DJ CHIEF BOIMA & ADOL DEE afrobeat, [illegible], [illegible], cumbia & dancehall
FRI 10PM	FLASHBACK FRIDAYS RESIDENT DJS THE OAKLAND FADERS old school hip-hop & all things funky
SAT 10PM	TA DOWN OAKLAND FADERS, 40 BEEFUNK & FINGER BANGERZ [illegible]
SUN 9PM no cover	SOUL FULL DJ [illegible] soul, new & old, hip hop, reggae, funk & more
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FRI 8/14 9:00 PM $10 ALIEN COWBOYS / GIRODO / LEE NICH & THE [illegible]
SAT 8/15 9:00 PM $10 FORREST DAY / ALEX LEE AND LEE VICE / FEEL GOOD PATROL
THU 8/20 9:00 PM $7 VIA, MURMUR OF LILIES, / HUFF THIS, PHOTON, / THE PINTACLES
FRI 8/21 9:00 PM $8 GENERALISSIMO / GHOST ECHOES / MARIANA TRENCH
SAT 8/22 3:00 PM AFTERNOON SHOW / BENEFIT FOR / OAKLAND'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
SAT 8/22 9:30 PM $10 TAARKA / AARON BEAUMONT / FELSEN
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THU 8/20 8:30 pm $13 $10 Groove — KLEZMER GYPSY/WORLD — CASPIAN HAT DANCE from Amsterdam / + KUGELPLEX / 8:30 pm Klezmer dance groove with Bruce Bierman
FRI 8/21 9:00 pm $12 $10 advance — SPACEBUG PRESENTS — LYNX & JANOVER / MAMA CROW / TISTRYA GRACE
SAT 8/22 9:30 pm $15 $12 Groove — AFRICAN — SOLO CISSOKHO / Senegalese kora master with special guests Ousseynou Kouyate, Karamba Diabate, Jamba Diop, Wes Isaacs
SUN 8/23 3:00 pm $6 adults/ $4 kids — "SUNNY SUNDAYS" KIDS' SHOW — BANANA SLUG STRING BAND / Science, song, and celebration
SUN 8/23 8:00 pm $10 — MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN — RACHID HALIHAL & FRIENDS
TUE 8/25 8:30 pm $12 — CAJUN ZYDECO – FROM LOUISIANA — CEDRIC WATSON & BIJOU CREOLE / 8:00 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson w/ [illegible]
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FRI. 21ST: ANGEL MAGIK PRESENTS BIGGIE VS TUPAC / DJ D-SHARP & ICEWATER
SAT 22ND: DISTORTION II STATIC PRESENTS YES YES Y'ALL / DJ'S PRINCE ARIES & WONWAY POSIBUL
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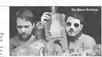
The Moore Brothers.

Ali Martell

The Moore Brothers

The folk-pop duo of the **Moore Brothers** is something special. They, too, draw inspiration from the great brother acts of the 1950s like the Louvins and Everlys, but their voices are so similar that their harmonies produce the overtones and harmonics you get when chording a well-tuned instrument, creating a singular yet complex whole. Their minor-key melodies and mysterious lyrics sound like they come directly from the unconscious, and their fragile messages are full of lovely confusion and dark humor. They're one of the more unique and underrated acts in the singer-songwriter scene and may treat us with a few new tunes from their next album, *Who Are the Moore Brothers?* The Moore Brothers open for **J Tillman at Cafe du Nord** (2170 Market St., San Francisco) on Sunday, Aug. 23. 8 p.m., $12-$15. CafeduNord.com — *j. poet*

San Francisco Opera

What would the end of summer be like without **San Francisco Opera** at Stern Grove? Featuring tenor Marco Berti and several other stars, this hopefully sunny afternoon of opera favorites is always a delight. (This is where Lawrence Brownlee, the Met's latest Rossini tenor sensation, made his Bay Area debut, and, at another concert, where fans almost tore the clothes off a tall, handsome tenor who was heading to La Scala.) Get there early to park and picnic. At **Sigmund Stern Grove** (2750 19th Ave., San Francisco) on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2 p.m., free. 415-252-6252 — *Jason Victor Serinus*

Van Hunt.

Van Hunt

So far **Van Hunt** got a lot of mileage out of the revivalist trend that took hold a few years ago, around the time Hunt released his self-titled debut. One more album and one Grammy Award later, the Ohio-born artist is still going strong. Part of his success is owed to an interesting foundation: The singer grew up playing saxophone, drums, keyboards, and guitar, slided in and out of rock bands, and later made beats for Atlanta rappers. The rest derives from his talent as a songwriter. Hunt's first two albums teem with immediately catchy pop tunes and searching, pitiable love ballads, all sung in a clean, modular falsetto. Van Hunt performs at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 20, at Oakland **Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero West). R&B singer and multi-instrumentalist **Greg Scott** follows at 11 p.m. with a seven-piece band that includes keyboardist Maya Kronfeld, local R&B chanteuse Sakai on background vocals, and electronic percussion by Chris Detrick. $18, $14. Yoshis.com — *Rachel Swan*

Pete Yorn

He's been called the "poor man's Ryan Adams," but in truth, Pete Yorn has cut his own path with a sound that owes more to fellow New Jersey native Bruce Springsteen than to the alt-country Americanism that infuses so much of Adams' work. Over the course of three albums, Yorn has established himself as quite the solid alt-rocker and has attracted collaborators ranging from Dave Grohl and Peter Buck to members of the Dixie Chicks. Currently working with actress Scarlett Johansson on the duo's forthcoming September release, *Break Up*, Yorn is still out in support of his recently released album, *Back and Fourth*. Recorded at the Omaha studios of Saddle Creek Records, the disc is more melancholy than the usual blue jangle that Yorn is best known for. Johansson's second favorite muse after Tom Waits will be sharing the gloom on Monday, Aug. 24, at **the Fillmore** (1805 Geary Blvd., San Francisco). 9 p.m., $28.50. TheFillmore.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

C&C

Valerie Orth Band w/ [illegible] Ensemble, Mo and Jonah, Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $12

Classical & Opera

Merola Grand Finale w/ the San Francisco Opera Orchestra & guests performing works by Puccini, Mozart, Johann Strauss, Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Bizet, [illegible], Massenet, & more. War Memorial Opera House. 7:30 pm, $25-$45, students $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon Club Fugazi, 7 & 10 pm, $25-$17

Larry Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet [illegible] Cafe, 10 pm, $12

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

Flipper w/ [illegible], Tube, & Kaleb, Annie's Social Club, 9 pm, $10

Forbidden w/ [illegible], Great American, Slims, 9 pm, $20

La Plebe w/ Pop Quiz, Downtown Monster, Volume & DJ Alberto, Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $12

[illegible] w/ Apparatus, Heartbeat

Tower, 8 pm, $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Brass, Bows and Beats: A Hip-Hop Symphony featuring Adam Theis and the Jazz Mafia Symphony, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$28

Emergent Music Series featuring the [illegible] Ensemble, Myers, [illegible], 10 pm, $10

The [illegible] of Jazz Soul featuring California Flight Project and comedian Jimmy Walker, [illegible], 8:30 pm, $25-$40

[illegible] The [illegible], 8 pm, $50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Groove Lava & Groove Lava w/ DJ Emmanuel Nado, Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $20

SUNDAY 23

EAST BAY

Piano, Folk & Country

Americana Unplugged [illegible], Americana & old-time w/ rotating artists, Jupiter, 5 pm, free

Grover Bluegrass String Band Sunny Sundays kids' show, Ashkenaz, 3-4:30 pm, $6, kids $4

Danny [illegible] & Groove Overtime Saloon, 9 pm, free

Fiddlers Jam United Methodist Church of Castro Valley, 1:30-5 pm, free

The [illegible] Armando's, 3-6 pm, $5

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$30, kids matinee $5

[illegible] Masterson Group Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $18

Jim Grantham Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free

[illegible] Overtime Band Arroyo/Crown Creek Park, 3 pm, free

[illegible] Ebony's Band & Jam Jam Zazou's Waterfront Restaurant and Nightclub, 5-10 pm, $10

Rhythm Groove Roadhouse Band, Peralta Restaurant, 5 pm, free

Soul Last Sundays featuring the [illegible] Organ Trio, Azna Lounge, 6 pm, $5 minimum

[illegible] & Jae Anna's Jazz Island, 3 pm, $6

Terrance Brewer Trio Band 6:30-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ Age of Aggression, Brewer Portrait, Sandpaper Tampon & Industrial Underground, [illegible]

Roadhouse, 8 pm, $8-$10
Chris Isaak Wente Vineyards, 7:30 pm, $56.50-$65.50
Cherry Jolly Bay Street Mall, 2-4 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Mamet Kalbat Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

J Bottom w/ the Moore Brothers, Poorly Glass Music, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $11-$13
Songwriter Sundays rotating artists Hosted in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $3
Zachary Stewart Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 & 9 pm, $20

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera featuring tenor Hattie Berts, Stern Grove, 2 pm, free
Tango Vegan Pianola solo piano, Old First Presbyterian Church, 4 pm, $15, students/seniors $12

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Subterranean featuring Matthew, Bottom Ways, Stephen Lars, & Avant Stewart, Dance Mission Theater, 8 pm, $12-$15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Uptown Coda, 8 pm, $7

Rock & Pop

The Cult performing Love, The Warfield, 8 pm, $38.50-$69.50
Foreign Marines w/ Maggie Morris, Chocolate, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $8
The Matches The Fillmore, 8 pm, $20
Ted Leo + Pharmacists w/ Hank IV, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $15

MONDAY 24

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Lavender Trio Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, $5
The Dalton Stewart Experience Yoshi's, 8 pm, $12
Uptown Almost Bottom Uptown, 9 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Mitch Marcus Quintet Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Pete Yorn The Fillmore, 9 pm, $28.50
Ted Leo + Pharmacists w/ Jeff the Brotherhood, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $15

TUESDAY 25

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Gladis Dalton & Bijou Brodie plus Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $12
The Dirty Tuthy Hillbilly Stomp w/ guest vocalist Ruby "Toby" Bennett, Jupiter's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 pm, free
Lamplight Homiesmas Sixth Club, 8 pm, $5

Gospel & Sacred

World Harmony Chorus Lake Merritt Methodist Church, 7:30 pm, $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Eve Almost Big BOSS The Hotel, 8 pm, free
Eddie Pashnoush Ono w/ Guests, Cafe Rouge, 6:30 pm, free
Mowed Hall @ Khalil Double Anthony Dashuti's Meal, 7-8 pm, free
Jazzschool Tuesdays Jupiter, 8 pm, free
Dallas Parker Yoshi's, 8 pm, $15
Randy Craig Trio Caffe Trieste, 2:30-9:30 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Brutal SEX Festival featuring Kwap, Matt Ingalls, La Kan, 7 Bag, Hatphoral, & more, Di Bottom, 8 pm, $3

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jean Martin Tuesdays Cecil, 9 pm, $7

Rock & Pop

Ongoumi Joe Del Ravenna w/ Alma Essereala, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $11-$14
The Dollars Party w/ Good Albright, guest, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $10
Ravenna Fade Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $10-$12
Tony Lamos w/ Jay Ruth, Matt Duke, Hook, Club, 8 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

"The Congress featuring Fatie Wilson, DJ Max La, Elbo Room, 9 pm, TBA
Late Night Live Tuesdays, Monthly Yoshi's San Francisco, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, $8

WEDNESDAY 26

EAST BAY

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Hump Day Jam Plus 53 Theater, 7 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Louis Dalton Group Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Dan Elders w/ Childhood Music, Stork Club, 9 pm, $5
Dollars of Woodstock featuring Jefferson Starship, Ten Years After, Canned Heat, Big Brother & the Holding Company, Tom Constanten, & Country Joe McDonald, Mountain Winery, 7 pm, $48.50-$78.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

2nd Annual Oakland Soul Revolution Music Jam featuring Martin Luther w/ Cody ChesnuTT, Del Lyte, Sth E. & more, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $36
Quinn DeVeaux and the Blue Beat Review w/ the Soul Burners, Jupiter, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Cob Kikoriere w/ Tofer Nakayama, Dalton Chen, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10
The Dalton Bottom & Blues, 9-11:30 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Los Ramos Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $26

Rock & Pop

Hump w/ Shinya Unison, Faith and Kate, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $8
Ready w/ Bandido, As Tall as Lions, The Fillmore, 7:30 pm, $18
The Funeral Pyre w/ Early Graves, Cittel, & Cemaro, Annex Social Club, 8 pm, $7
Uptown Lands Night Show featuring Hardin, Specialty Duds & the Ramona, Rickshaw Stop, 9:30 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Metal Rhymes, Lifs MC Competition Elbo Room Lounge, 10 pm, $10

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KALX
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THE WARFIELD
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THE CULT
YEAR LONG DISASTER
AUGUST 23

MARILYN MANSON
AUGUST 28

AL GREEN
ORGONE (JUST ADDED)
SEPTEMBER 2

PHOENIX
THE SOFT PACK
SEPTEMBER 17

PORCUPINE TREE
THAT 1 GUY
SEPTEMBER 18

THE POGUES
DEVOTCHKA (JUST ADDED)
OCTOBER 13

BOYS LIKE GIRLS
COBRA STARSHIP • THE MAINE
A ROCKET TO THE MOON
VERSA EMERGE
OCTOBER 23
ON SALE SUNDAY!

THE SOUNDS
FOXY SHAZAM
OCTOBER 24
ON SALE SUNDAY!

THE BRAVERY
NOVEMBER 6
ON SALE SATURDAY!

STEVEN WRIGHT
NOVEMBER 20
ON SALE SUNDAY!

[illegible] CONCERT SERIES

The
REGENCY
BALLROOM

BERES HAMMOND
[illegible]
& SPECIAL GUESTS
CULTURE
[illegible]
AUGUST [illegible]

GEORGE CLINTON &
PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC
AUGUST [illegible]

THE NEVILLE BROTHERS
DR. JOHN
SEPTEMBER [illegible]

MAXIMO PARK
[illegible]
SEPTEMBER [illegible]

COLLECTIVE SOUL
BLACKSTONE CHERRY • [illegible]
SEPTEMBER [illegible]

SUGAR RAY
DIRTY HEADS • [illegible]
SEPTEMBER [illegible]

EVERY TIME I DIE
BRING ME THE HORIZON
OH, SLEEPER • ARCHITECTS
SEPTEMBER [illegible]

HAPPY MONDAYS
THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS
AMUSEMENT PARKS ON FIRE
SEPTEMBER 17

BILL LASWELL'S METHOD OF DEFIANCE
[illegible]
SEPTEMBER [illegible]

ALL THAT REMAINS
LACUNA COIL
MAYLENE AND THE SONS OF DISASTER
TAKING DAWN
OCTOBER 18
ON SALE SUNDAY!

SKINNY PUPPY
NOVEMBER 1
ON SALE SUNDAY!

RÖYKSOPP
NOVEMBER 12
ON SALE SUNDAY!

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924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926.
[illegible] & Lounge 430 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland. 510-444-2377.
Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. Albatrosspub.com.
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[illegible] Room 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-1825.
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Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054.
[illegible] 4315 Hopyard, Pleasanton. 925-416-0721.
[illegible] 5616 Bay St., Emeryville.
[illegible] 3278 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1790.
[illegible] 2111 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-444-2306.
[illegible] Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St., Alameda. 510-523-8867.
Betty's [illegible] 1248 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek. 925-979-0630.
The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward. 510-886-8525.
Blakes on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886.
[illegible] 2361 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-[illegible]
[illegible] 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-5158.
[illegible] @ Tavern 175 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore. 925-249-8880.
Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek. 925-938-4550.
[illegible] 420 3rd St., Oakland. 510-465-0168.
[illegible] 125 13th St., Oakland. 510-763-6404.
[illegible] 3310 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4224.
[illegible] 620 Ferry St., Alameda. 925-278-3340.
Conga Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland. 510-463-2681.
[illegible] Sports Bar 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-939-1330.
[illegible] 2301 Alameda Ave., Alameda. [illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-339-4911.
[illegible] Burlesque 128 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-2204.
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-843-2889.
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-3555.
Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. TheFoxOakland.com.
[illegible] 111 W. [illegible] Rd., Hayward. 510-853-[illegible]
Freight & Salvage [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761.
[illegible] UC Berkeley [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-5060.
[illegible] Paradise Club 1436 Webster St., Alameda. 510-865-3225.
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Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237.
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Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-8277.
[illegible] 1000 [illegible] St., Oakland. 510-238-0760.
Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland. 510-444-6979.
King Tsin Chinese Restaurant 1398 Solano Ave., Albany.
Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-465-5464.
Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-5888.
Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville. 510-601-9301.
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568.
[illegible] 3100 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-836-2313.
[illegible] Church 3330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-465-4793.
[illegible] Church 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. 510-893-2484.
Laney College Theatre 900 Fallon St., Oakland. 510-464-3543.
Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Central Ave., Alameda. 510-523-4700.
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-[illegible]
Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland. 510-839-6169.
Missouri Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080.
[illegible] Club 6600 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-658-5384.
Oakland City Center 500 12th St., Oakland. [illegible]
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146.
ORACLE Arena 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400.
[illegible] Restaurant 3[illegible] Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. 925-284-[illegible]
Pleasanton Hotel 855 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-846-8106.
Quinn's Lighthouse 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. 510-536-2050.
[illegible] 435 13th St., Oakland. 510-451-3889.
[illegible] 3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-284-4017.
Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland. 510-444-7224.
[illegible] Hotel 42011 [illegible] Rd., Fremont. 510-875-0481.
Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1158.
[illegible] [illegible] San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. [illegible]
Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. 510-522-1300.
St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-848-5107.
St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-6830.
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Sweet Fingers 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-553-8880.
[illegible] 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-451-8100.
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Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-456-2450.
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[illegible] 415-440-0222.
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-541-9574.
[illegible] 1400 Haight St. 415-[illegible]
Annie's Social Club 917 Folsom St. 415-974-1585.
Audium 1616 Bush St. 415-771-1616.
[illegible] Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl. 415-362-[illegible]
Bacar Restaurant and Wine Salon 448 Brannan St. 415-904-4100.
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St. 415-831-5620.
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway 415-386-8439.
[illegible] 2290 Mission St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] 1705 [illegible] Ave. 415-471-0[illegible]
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St. 415-292-2583.
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St. 415-621-4455.
[illegible] 2389 Mission St. 415-648-5200.
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St. 415-861-5016.
Cafe International 508 Haight St. 415-558-1120.
[illegible] [illegible] Valley St. 415-[illegible]
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St. 415-431-3332.
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-621-1822.
The Cellar 685 Sutter St. 415-441-5678.
[illegible] 385 5th St. 415-263-0800.
Club Fugazi 678 Green St. 415-421-4222.
Club Six 60 Sixth St. 415-863-1221.
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave. 415-864-6000.
[illegible] 2801 Leavenworth St. 415-775-5110.
DNA Lounge 375 11th St. 415-626-1409.
[illegible] 2406 3rd St. 415-643-6538.
Eagle Tavern 398 12th St. 415-626-0880.
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St. 415-885-4074.
[illegible] 2700 16th St. 415-487-0740.
El Rio 3158 Mission St. 415-282-3325.
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St. 415-552-[illegible]
[illegible] Lounge 1009 Geary St. 415-[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] St. 415-546-9998.
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd. 415-346-6000.
[illegible] 520 4th St. 415-[illegible]
The Grand Ballroom 1500 Van Ness Ave. 415-673-5716.
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Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St. 415-923-0923.
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave. 415-392-4400.
Hotel Utah 500 4th St. 415-546-6300.
The Independent 628 Divisadero St. 415-771-1421.
Ireland's 32 Bar & Pub 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173.
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave. 415-291-8255.
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777.
The Knockout 3223 Mission St. 415-550-6994.
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Mission St. 415-864-5585.
Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St. 415-241-0202.
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St. 415-647-2888.
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St. 415-625-8880.
[illegible] 70 West Portal Ave.
Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St. 415-454-5238.
Park Chalet 1000 Great Highway. 415-386-8439.
[illegible] 1601 Powell St. 415-[illegible]
Pier 23 The Embarcadero. 415-[illegible]
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St. 415-921-1695.
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] 20th St. 415-[illegible]-7500.
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St. 415-861-2011.
[illegible] 600 Clement St. 415-387-6344.
[illegible] 222 Mason St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St. 415-503-6275.
[illegible] 453 Cortland Ave. 415-282-3450.
Skylark 3089 16th St. 415-621-9294.
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The Stud 399 9th St. 415-863-6623.
Sub-Mission Art Gallery 2183 Mission St. 415-255-7227.
Supper Club 657 Harrison St. 415-348-0900.
Swig Bar 561 Geary St. 415-931-7292.
Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St. 415-[illegible]
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St. 415-616-6916.
[illegible] 601 Bush St. 415-986-8900.
[illegible] 443 Broadway St. 415-[illegible]
The Warfield 982 Market St. 415-775-7722.
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St. 415-655-5600.

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 20

EAST BAY

College Night w/ DJ and DJ Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, old-school & Top 40, White Horse Inn, 9 pm, $3, students free w/ ID

Cocomotion Elastic [illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Oktoberfest w/ [illegible] Emily [illegible], 9 pm, free

Orbit/Jones w/ DJ [illegible] spinning funk, nu-jazz, & electronic music, [illegible] 9 pm, free

DJ Adell spinning [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Reggae Bash w/ DJ [illegible] featuring reggae, African, soca, cumbia, [illegible], reggae, disco, & funk, Kitty's, 7 pm, free

Tasty [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] hip-hop & R&B, [illegible] & Bar, 9 pm, $12

Thursday Throwdown w/ DJ [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist [illegible] guests spinning hip-hop, [illegible], Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, free

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Afrolicious w/ DJs Sabo, Pleasuremaker, [illegible] & guests spinning Afrobeat, [illegible] funk, [illegible] 10 pm, $5

Prologue w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] 10 pm, $8, [illegible] $10

[illegible] electro [illegible] DJ house party w/ Sandunie, Lucky Young, & Syden, Rickshaw Stop, 10 pm, $6

FRIDAY 21

EAST BAY

Flashback Fridays DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin old-school hip-hop [illegible] funk, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

[illegible] dance party w/ DJs [illegible] Ryan, & [illegible] spinning [illegible], [illegible] house, & hip-hop, Uptown, 9 pm, $5

Latin Explosion DJ Jorge [illegible] spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, classic Spanish pop, & house music & [illegible] 9 pm-2 am, $12

Noche Tropical Lounge DJ [illegible] spinning Cuban music & Latin jazz, La Toma de Café, 10:30 pm, free

Optimistic DJ [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & [illegible], 10 pm, free

[illegible] Cornell [illegible] spins pop night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Sultry Fridays DJ Latin & Fat [illegible] spin R&B & soul, [illegible] Sundays 9 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Bash Up indie-pop-dance-rock [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, 10 pm, $5 before 11 pm, $10

Dorne! Mad Recordings Ten-Year Anniversary spinning Steve Bug, John Tejada, [illegible], 10 pm, $25

SATURDAY 22

EAST BAY

[illegible] DJs [illegible] & Sweet [illegible] spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, &

hip-hop, Maxwell's Lounge, 9 pm, $20

Magic Hills [illegible] spin surfing [illegible], Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

To-Dun II Oakland [illegible] & [illegible] spin classic party [illegible] funk, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, $10

"Yes, Yes, Y'all" w/ DJs [illegible], Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Dub w/ DJ [illegible] & Alexander [illegible], Mezzanine, 9 pm, $10-$15

DJ Superstar! w/ [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible] cumbia, reggaeton, [illegible] world dance-pop [illegible] Rooms, 11 pm, $5

[illegible] Screening and [illegible] Party featuring members of the cast and crew, plus guest DJs, Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm, $10

SUNDAY 23

EAST BAY

[illegible] DJs Paulud, house & guests spin funk, soul [illegible], house & more, Club [illegible], 10 pm, free

Speakeasy Sunday DJ [illegible] spins big band, jump blues & more, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

Slap of Alam DJ Smoke-One and reggae, old-school [illegible], Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $5, $3 for students & students

Mojo! w/ DJ hip-hop spinning soul, funk, & Afro-electric old-house, Sierra Bar, & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Meople DJs spinning hip-hop, [illegible], plus R&B, [illegible] 3:30-11 pm, $6

Soul-Full w/ DJ Abdi [illegible] spinning soul, hip-hop, reggae, funk, & house, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Swing Dolls [illegible] house [illegible] plus swing lessons at 7 pm, Blakes on Telegraph, 7 pm, free

Under Pan / Sha Sansara DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & roots reggae, The Hotsy Totsy Club, 7 pm, free

Working Latin DJ Frantel spins rockabilly & old-school for bar & old-school staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] & guests spinning dub, [illegible] & old-school [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $8

[illegible] First DJ [illegible] & reggae [illegible] & dancehall, Underground SF, 9 pm, [illegible] 10:30 pm, $6

[illegible] Big SF w/ DJ [illegible] big room & their [illegible], [illegible] 9-10 pm, $5

Sunday [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], house [illegible] Jim Hopkins, [illegible], Hawthorne, [illegible] & more, The [illegible] 9 pm, $10

MONDAY 24

EAST BAY

The 3-Day old-school w/ DJ [illegible] spinning local [illegible], plus old-school hip-hop, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ [illegible] spins dub, disco, & soul, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Mondays DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spin reggae & [illegible], Kitty's, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Back & [illegible] w/ [illegible] 4 p.m.-9 p.m. & [illegible] 9 p.m.-2 a.m., [illegible] 9 pm-2 am, free

[illegible] spinning [illegible] competition [illegible] & Bar, 8 pm, TBA

Mystery Night [illegible] spin hip-hop [illegible]

[illegible] & classic [illegible] house 11 pm-2 am, free

Underground Lounge psycho '80s & punk '70s music, Radio, 10 pm-2 am, free

[illegible] Mang Dolls w/ DJ [illegible] spinning funk, soul, soft hits, house, & soul, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

Working Stiffs DJ [illegible] spins rockabilly & old-school for bar & restaurant staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] [illegible] 9:30 pm, [illegible] 10 pm, $5

Bonus classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, & [illegible], & more, [illegible] 10 pm, $5

Bonus Vinyl w/ DJ [illegible] spinning an eclectic mix of vinyl, [illegible] 9 pm, $2

Spirit Rockers w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funk, soul, hip-hop, [illegible], jazz, Latin, and [illegible] house, [illegible], 10 pm, free

TUESDAY 25

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ [illegible] spinning rock, indie, punk, new wave, & more, [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Jon [illegible] spinning [illegible] & Latin funk, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] hip-hop [illegible], 9:30 pm, free

DJ [illegible] spinning punk, [illegible], Working classic, 9 pm-2 pm, free

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning classic, classic, & [illegible], Blakes on Telegraph, 9 pm, free

Soul Pitch DJs [illegible], Kool [illegible], & Juan [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, & [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Wanna Hang Dolls w/ DJs spinning [illegible] soft hits, house & soul, Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Audio house 18+ house night w/ DJs spinning trance, [illegible], [illegible], & techno, Temple, 9 pm, $5-$10, free before 9 p.m.

The [illegible] Lounge w/ DJs Apollo, Sharbot, [illegible], Senbeck, Mr. E, [illegible], plus weekly reggae, reggae Lounge, 9 pm, $5

[illegible] [illegible] DJs Jah Yzer, [illegible], & [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, & [illegible], 10 pm, $7

Dz Showcase hip-hop open-mic party, Club [illegible], 9 pm, $5

[illegible] [illegible] Fancy & [illegible] Funky [illegible] spin funky soul, girl groups, house [illegible], '60s San Francisco sound & more, The [illegible], 11 pm, free

Old-School Hip-Hop & S/F classic Little [illegible], 9 pm, $3

[illegible] Standard Time hip-hop & soul w/ DJ [illegible] plus live guests, 330 Ritch, 10 pm, $5

[illegible] death w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] plus MC [illegible], Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

WEDNESDAY 26

EAST BAY

[illegible] Pop [illegible] w/ DJs house Art, Justin [illegible] and [illegible] house [illegible] electronica, classic [illegible] Telegraph, 9 pm, $5

Wanna Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spins salsa, cumbia, merengue, reggae, & hip-hop plus [illegible] house [illegible] at 8 p.m., Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible] Elbo Room, 10 pm, $5 ■

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MORE THAN JUST MEAT

Hooking up with a young 'un and a married couple. Plus genderless lubes for anal play

By Dan Savage

I just turned twenty and have been out of the closet for a year. A lesbian friend wants to hook me up with her gay friend, let's call him Kyle: a cute, fit boy who runs track and does theater. The issue is he's just seventeen, while I am entering my junior year in college. The age of consent where we live is sixteen. I realize the age difference is not too big, but he is technically still a minor. I'm only mildly experienced and I'd like to think I'm a nice guy. Also the pickings are rather slim around here. Are there certain things to keep in mind besides the usual respect and honesty? Does the "campsite" rule apply?

Man In Need Of Recommendations

Meet the boy. If you hit it off, it would be a shame if you didn't allow Kyle to benefit from your wisdom, experience, and cock just because he wasn't born twelve months earlier. And if you start going steady and he's out to his family, I would urge you to meet his parents. They might not be entirely comfortable with their son's sexuality, but if you go out of your way to reassure them about your intentions toward their son they may feel a bit more at ease.

As for the campsite rule — "leave him in better shape than you found him" — others have pointed out that the rule should apply regardless of age, sexuality, species, etc. I agree, of course, but I still believe that older, wiser, and more experienced partners have a special responsibility to leave their sex partners in better shape than they found them.

I'm 35, gay, and in a six-year relationship. My husband is 38, and we have a great relationship. We have been monogamous up till now but are open to inviting select others into our bed. This was prompted by a friend we recently made whom we both find attractive and who has expressed an interest in us both. He is 24, cute, and just starting out in Gaydom. We don't expect anything long term, just a nice, mellow friend with benefits scenario. Any suggestions?

Good Guy Gays

Tell the 24-year-old not to expect anything long term, and let him know that while you will be treating him like a piece of meat, you will also be treating him like a human being. Make sure he understands that his presence in your lives is meant to be fun and temporary. You two get to spice it up with some strange; he gets to benefit from your wisdom, experience, and cocks. And tell him that while he'll have a blast with you two, he shouldn't pass on a date with a potential boyfriend — but you would like to be informed about any other sexual contacts he might have. Then show him the ropes, teach him about sexual safety, encourage him to open up about anything he's ever wanted to try, help him find his place in Gaydom, and when it comes to an end — as it will and should — make an effort to remain friends.

I am a gay male. A couple of months ago I developed a friendship with a gay couple. Then they took me aside and "married" me into their marriage, and so now I'm in one of those "polyamorous" groups. I thought I would be able to open myself up to both of them, but for some reason I can't seem to feel love for them both at the same time. I've always seen myself as a strict-monogamy kind of guy. I thought a three-way would be fun, but I feel like I'm just a piece of meat. I feel inadequate because I can't feel comfortable in this relationship.

Feel Like A Prude

So... after knowing you for two months, this couple essentially proposed to you, and you accepted. End this marriage at once. Not because you're a prude, but because at two months, they were idiots to propose and you were an idiot to accept. Trying something and not liking it doesn't mean that you're a prude, it only means that "it" either wasn't for you or that you tried "it" with the wrong person(s). I suspect the latter. If these guys, after two months, had invited you to drop by twice a week for a leisurely spit roasting, I suspect you would've had a better experience, FLAP. Inviting you over to be treated like a piece of meat — and a human being — would've been honest. All you could really be at two months is a piece of meat and a friend with benefits; you couldn't be a husband and in love with both of them equally. Their unreasonable expectations, and your attempt to live up to them, ruined what could've been a nice little affair.

I'm a gay dude who has been trying to find an all-natural and organic lube. The only one my hubby and I liked was a brand called Blue, but alas, they stopped making it. When I try to look online or at the local co-op, the only all-natural sex lubricants I can find all say something to the effect of "closest possible to a woman's natural vaginal fluids." I have two problems with this. Problem number one: eeewwww. Problem number two: When I have sampled these lubes, they seem very thin. A healthy bout of anal sex needs something with a bit more viscosity. Is there an all-natural lube out there that doesn't quickly dry out and washes off easily? Some friends keep suggesting vegetable oils, but I don't want to have to wash off my junk with Dawn.

Lubing Up Butts Environmentally Safely

"Not that vaginal juices are eeewwww-ey," says Rachel Venning, cofounder of Babeland, one of my favorite sex-toy shops. "But I don't want a jar of them on my nightstand either. I want something that stays slick longer, like packaged lube." Babeland makes its own organic lube, a water-based lube called Naked that's thick, latex-safe, and good for butt play. "Another new brand of organic lube to try is Sliquid Organics Gel. There is a teeny-tiny woman's symbol in the logo, but if that isn't too much of a turnoff for this man-loving man, it's good stuff." Vegetable oils aren't condom-safe, of course, but if you and your partner are seroconcordant and having anal sex with only each other, Venning suggested "some natural unguent from the beauty aisle — shea butter balm or the like. Not as slippery but lasts longer."

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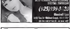
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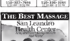
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